

Jordan Times

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Group says 9 SLA men killed

SIDON (R) — A Palestinian group said Tuesday it killed nine Israeli-backed soldiers and seized a strategic hilltop during overnight clashes east of the southern Lebanese port. The group, "Revolution of God," said in a statement that it had killed nine Israeli-backed soldiers and seized a strategic hilltop east of the southern Lebanese port. The group, "Revolution of God," said in a statement that it had killed nine Israeli-backed soldiers and seized a strategic hilltop east of the southern Lebanese port.

'Iran involved in uprising'

TEL AVIV (R) — An Israeli military source said Tuesday that Iran had become directly involved in the Palestinian uprising by providing money and arms for Islamic fundamentalists in Israel and the occupied territories. Speaking at a seminar on guerrilla activity organized for reporters by the Israeli government, the source charged: "Members of Islamic Jihad go to Iran for training." Under the rules laid down for the seminar the source could not be identified. He said the role of Islamic Jihad in the 30-month-old uprising was expected to increase from its present relatively low level because of Iranian military and financial support. Palestinians said the group, which has two main factions, had very good relations with the pro-Iranian Hizbullah in Lebanon. An Islamic Jihad member killed 16 people in July last year when he forced a bus off the Tel Aviv-Jerusalem highway. The military source described as a most worrying trend the growing cooperation between Palestinian nationalists and pro-Iranian fundamentalists such as Hizbullah. "This cooperation is very dangerous. It could lead to very serious attacks."

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House sends Zionism bill to Bush

WASHINGTON (AP) — The House of Representatives has passed and sent to President George Bush a bill calling on the United Nations to repeal a 15-year-old resolution equating Zionism with racism. On a voice vote, the lawmakers approved a measure, rhetorically asking "all member states of the United Nations General Assembly to take immediate action" to repeal U.N. Resolution 3379, passed in 1975. The congressional legislation, passed May 3 by the Senate, also requested the president to report to Congress periodically on progress towards repeal. The administration supports the bill and is expected to sign it.

Irish MPs hold talks in Tehran

TEHRAN (R) — Three Irish parliamentarians held talks with Iranian officials about an Irish teacher held hostage by groups in Lebanon. The Irish Times said Tuesday. The paper quoted MP David Andrews as saying they had discussed the case of Brian Keenan and two foreign ministry officials and two Iranian deputies. "Brian Keenan is a teacher who holds dual Irish-British nationality. Keenan originally is Irish and we are concerned with his captivity," Andrews told the English-language daily. Keenan, 39, was abducted in March 1988, four years ago. Three British and 11 other Westerners are missing believed kidnapped in Lebanon by groups loyal to Iran.

Kohl aiming for all-German vote on Dec. 2 or 3

BONN (R) — West German Chancellor Helmut Kohl and his coalition partners agreed Tuesday that all-German elections should be held on Dec. 2 or 3, coalition sources said. Kohl recently came out in favour of replacing West Germany's Dec. 2 general election with an all-German vote, but had only spoken in general of December or early January. At Tuesday's coalition meeting, chaired by Kohl, the three ruling parties agreed to strive for all-German elections to be held on either of these two dates, coalition sources said.

Kollek at odds with U.K. consulate

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (R) — The Israeli mayor of Jerusalem, Teddy Kollek, accused the British consulate in Jerusalem of practicing "apartheid" by holding separate official functions for Arabs and Jews. Kollek's spokeswoman said he would boycott a reception in honour of Queen Elizabeth's birthday Wednesday in protest. "This is a form of apartheid to which we cannot acquiesce. It is the role of a consulate to maintain contact with all the residents of the place where it is located; it is not its role to divide them," Kollek said in a statement Tuesday. British Consul-General Ivan Callan defended the policy, saying many Jews and Arabs would boycott joint events. Callan told Reuters: "We are confident in our judgement. We hold separate receptions as a courtesy to a large portion of people we have daily dealings with. One can't expect Kollek to bring about conciliations that greater parties have been unable to do."

Velayati rules out talks with Najibullah

ISLAMABAD (AP) — Foreign Minister Ali Akbar Velayati of Iran Tuesday ruled out talks with the leader of Afghanistan's Communist-style government to end the 12-year-old Afghan war. "We have not softened our position with (Afghan President) Najibullah. We will not talk with him," said Velayati, who is in Pakistan for a meeting of the three-nation Economic Cooperation Organization. His partners at the economic summit were Pakistan's Foreign Minister Sahabzada Yaqub Khan and Turkey's Minister of State for Economic Affairs Isin Celik. Pakistan and Iran have absorbed more than five million Afghan refugees since 1979, when the Soviet Union intervened militarily in the country.

Israel will have 7.5 million Jews by 2000 — Crown Prince King warns of Israeli plots

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein met at the Royal Court with participants in an international symposium on Jerusalem which began in Amman Tuesday.

Welcoming the delegates, the King reminded them that the meeting, "not far from Jerusalem," bears a great significance. He praised their efforts in defending the Arab right in the Holy City.

King Hussein referred to recent international developments, which, he said, were positive in many aspects but adversely affected the Arab region and the Arab causes.

"Our meeting here as Christians and Muslims at a most opportune time is a welcome event because we need to talk in one voice and speak out in defence of our rights in the Holy City," said the King.

The Christian-Muslim relationship has bound us firmly throughout the Arab and Islamic history and since the days of Omar and joined our efforts in repelling foreign aggression on Palestine in general and Jerusalem in particular," King Hussein added.

"We, as Christians and Muslims, are deeply pained to see and hear Israel's practices in Palestine."

French Jews urge Israel to open peace talks with PLO

World Zionists oppose settlement of Soviets in occupied territories

OCCUPIED JERUSALEM (Agencies) — Leading world Zionists, whose backing is crucial for Israel, have drafted a resolution opposing settlement of Soviet Jews on occupied Arab territories.

The resolution, to go before delegates from the World Zionist Organisation (WZO), was seen as a clear message to Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir's weak-old hardline government which wants to build up Jewish settlements in the West Bank and Gaza Strip.

"The resolution... is intended to send a message to the Israeli government. It should be clear there is no policy to settle Soviet immigrants in the West Bank and Gaza Strip," said Philip Suter, who helped write the proposal, and is on the WZO executive committee.

It was the latest sign of American Jewry's concern over the emergence of the most right-wing government in Israeli history which rejects U.S. conditions for Middle East peace talks.

The 165-member general council will vote on the resolution in Jerusalem Wednesday.

On Tuesday, it provoked heated debate among delegates, traditional supporters of Israel who are being asked to foot much of the bill for settling up to one million Soviet Jews in the next five years. WZO has an international membership of 1.2 million.

The Soviet exodus has created alarm among Arab states that the newcomers will displace Palestinians from their homeland.

The Hebrew text made available to Reuters said WZO would "concentrate all efforts to assure the emigration and absorption of Soviet Jews in Israel and prevent... settling the newcomers in locations likely to endanger the wave of immigration."

Shamir has been strongly criticised abroad since declaring a "big Israel" was needed for a big immigration.

He denies Israel has a policy of settling newcomers in the occupied territories. Shamir says Jews can live "wherever they like" and only a fraction have moved to the territories. Some 70,000 Jews live in settlements among 1.75 million



His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday receives the health ministers of the four member countries of the Arab Cooperation Council (Petra photo)

ACC health ministers brief King

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Tuesday received the health ministers of the Four Arab cooperation Council (ACC) member states who are in Amman for their second meeting. The ministers briefed the King on the outcome of their discussions and the steps taken so far to enhance and broaden scopes of cooperation among the four states in the field of health.

The ministers started their two-day meetings here Tuesday to discuss recommendations of the last meeting and examine prospects for unifying health rules, regulations, and legislations in the four countries in a bid to achieve health integration in the four countries. Such an integration is seen as a prelude to achieving Arab health integration. The ministers will also exchange experience in the health field and will discuss means of developing the technical and administrative health personnel in the four countries.

Angolan truce said close

LISBON (Agencies) — Angola's government and UNITA rebels are closer than ever to signing a lasting ceasefire, despite the rebels' recall of their delegation from peace talks here, a Portuguese official said Tuesday.

Three days of talks between low-level government and rebel delegations ended Monday and produced "progress, but not yet enough for a full agreement," said Jose Manuel Durao Barroso, secretary of state for foreign affairs and cooperation.

"Both sides have never been so close to an accord as now. Only the final piece is missing, perhaps the smallest piece, but that's very often the most difficult piece to agree on," said Durao Barroso, who hosted this second round of talks at a military installation outside Lisbon.

Durao Barroso did not specify what point or points needed to be resolved.

The talks were sponsored by Portugal's Premier Anibal Cavaco Silva. Angola was a Portuguese colony until it became independent in 1975. The U.S.-backed UNITA — the National Union for the Total Independence of Angola — and the nation's Marxist government have been at war since then.

Despite UNITA leader Jonas Savimbi's recall of his delegation early Monday to discuss disagreements at the talks, Durao Barroso said the negotiating teams had agreed to meet again in Portugal probably in the first half of July.

The negotiating teams, headed by Paulo Azeiteiro Mingo for UNITA and Antonio Fita for Angolan government, worked late into Monday night to write a protocol reflecting all positions tabled at the talks. A copy of the confidential record would be kept by the Portuguese government.

which is keeping the United States and the Soviet Union informed of progress in the talks, Durao Barroso said. The Kremlin backs the Angolan government.

According to the diplomat, negotiators focused on terms and monitoring mechanisms for a truce.

An initial truce engineered by Zairean President Mobutu Sese Seko last June 22 at his home town of Gbadolite collapsed within days and direct peace talks broke down soon afterwards.

Despite efforts by African and European diplomats and pressure from the United States and the Soviet Union, the belligerents only agreed to return to the negotiating table April 23 at the first Portuguese-sponsored round at Evora, east of Lisbon.

Romanian government launches crack-down

BUCHAREST (R) — Romania's government, given the go-ahead by parliament to crack down on protest, announced Tuesday the arrests of two more opposition leaders.

The arrests followed the detention Monday of Marian Munteanu, a student leader severely beaten by miners last week. Munteanu was removed from his hospital bed to an interior ministry hospital on charges of instigating violence.

The interior ministry, adopting a two-pronged tactic of talking to student groups while detaining their leaders, said Tuesday it had arrested Dumitru Dinca, a top opposition leader, and Nica Leon, president of the small National Democratic Party.

The two are being held as part of an investigation into the 53-day anti-government protest brutally broken up by riot police last Wednesday. The crackdown triggered a wave of violence that drew severe international criticism.

In a related development, the Netherlands embassy said that Munteanu's wife, Claudia, had sought refuge at the home of Ambassador Coen Stork.

"She has been at the residence of the ambassador since yesterday evening because she fears for her safety," said Dutch First Secretary Kees van Spronsen by telephone.

Asked how long she would be

Deputy-cum-ministers seeking to join blocs in Lower House

By Mariam M. Shabih
Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — Government ministers who are also serving Lower House deputies are making attempts to join existing blocs in Parliament, according to a number of deputies.

There seems to be an attempt by our colleagues who hold posts as ministers to join our ranks in some of the existing blocs," one deputy told the Jordan Times Monday.

"If I didn't know better I'd say they were trying to influence us," said another deputy. Discussions are under way about the possible inclusion of four ministers, Youssef Mbeideen, Ali Faqr, Abdul Baqi Jassmo and Abdul Majid Shreideh, in what was originally called the "Independent Bloc" and is now called the "Independent Islamic Bloc."

Also known as the "Liberal Muslim Bloc," the grouping of eight deputies most of whom hail from the Karak Governorate has not distinguished itself in its voting patterns in Parliament so far. As a bloc, the deputies voted in favour of the Badran government at the beginning of the year and later followed suit, and passed the 1990 budget with none of them giving a vote of nay or abstaining from the vote.

They have differed from the other three blocs in the House because they have not once split their votes on any major issue that has come before the House.

Mbeideen told the Jordan Times that although joining the bloc is not "a sure thing, it is being studied" by himself and the other three ministers.

"For me, it would be natural to join the Independent Islamic Bloc because most of its members were my running mates in my governorate," said deputy Mbeideen.

Some members of the bloc felt uneasy about having ministers as members of their parliamentary coalition. "If you ask me about the individuals I have no objection to any one of them joining. But I doubt that as ministers they can serve our bloc's interests well," said one

Israeli mass killer 'fit to stand trial'

TEL AVIV (Agencies) — The Israeli gunman who killed seven Palestinians, triggering major Palestinian unrest and international outrage, was responsible for his actions and fit to stand trial, prosecutors told a Tel Aviv court Tuesday.

The Israeli army had said 21-year-old Ami Popper, who gunned down his victims with an army-issued assault rifle, was unstable. His father described him as a "lunatic."

Popper was surrounded by 10 policemen when he appeared in the crowded courtroom. He was indicted Monday for murder and attempted murder in the May 20 incident.

Witnesses said Popper lined up Palestinians waiting for work at a pick-up point in Rishon LeZion near Tel Aviv and pretended to check their identity cards before spraying them with bullets at close range.

Citing a psychiatrist's opinion, prosecutor Nurit Shnit told the court: "We have an opinion the accused is fit to stand trial and is responsible for his actions. The opinion is part of the indictment."

Newly bearded Popper remained silent while a judge remanded him in custody until the end of his trial.

Shnit told the court that Popper had confessed to seven murders and 10 attempted murders.

Israel's new defence minister, Moshe Arens, made a surprise trip to the heart of the intifada on Tuesday and praised army action to suppress the revolt.

"I have only seen some of what the army has done. I am impressed that the army is doing difficult and unpleasant work and doing it well," Arens told reporters after his trip to the occupied Gaza Strip.

Police Minister Ronnie Milo, appointed to Israel's new cabinet along with Arens last week, made a similar inspection trip to the Shufat refugee camp in Arab Jerusalem.

Milo was briefed by area commanders in a police lookout above the camp while children on the streets below threw rocks at border police.

Bush asks Shamir to clarify policy

WASHINGTON (Agencies) — President George Bush has called on Israeli Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir to explain what his new right-wing government will do to revive long-stalled Middle East peace efforts.

In a lengthy letter, Bush said he hoped the prime minister was still committed to a plan that Shamir espoused last year for elections of Palestinian representatives in the occupied territories, according to officials.

Shamir has adamantly objected to terms of a U.S. formula for opening an Israeli-Palestinian dialogue as part of his plan.

In a conciliatory note, Bush congratulated Shamir on forming a new government after three months of political deadlock.

Disputes over U.S. led peace efforts have sparked tensions between the two sides.

Secretary of State James Baker said last week the United States would suspend its involvement in peace efforts unless Shamir makes compromises to open a dialogue with Palestinians.

Offering the number of the White House switchboard, Baker said the message for Israel is: "When you're serious about peace, call us."

In his letter, Bush asked Shamir "for a description of where he stands on the peace process at this time," White House Press Secretary Martin Fitzwater said.

Shamir, in a television interview Monday, said that Bush

"asked me for replies and explanations about our path in the framework of the peace process."

The prime minister said, "we will explain to him, to the best of our ability, our attitude, our proposals, and I sincerely hope if here and there, there are differences of opinion, we will reach an agreement."

David Levy, Israel's new foreign minister, has accused the United States of distorting the election initiative that Shamir offered in the spring of 1989.

Peres warns of war

Labour Party leader Shimon Peres Monday warned of increased extremism, violence and preparations for war in the Middle East if the new government fails to talk peace with Palestinians.

"If chances for peace disappear, I believe we should see the ugly phenomenon of re-emerging in the Middle East," Peres told Jewish leaders in New York.

"That is," he said, "escalation of the arms race, of threats, of terrorism, of violence, and of preparation for war. It's tragic for all parties concerned."

Speaking to the Conference of Presidents of Major American Jewish Organisations in New York, Peres said a return to war preparations could be imminent if Israelis and Palestinians fail to overcome their differences and begin peace talks.

The six-year coalition between the Labour Party and Shamir's hardline

(Continued on page 4)

General elections loom in Algeria after FIS win

ALGIERS (R) — Early general elections in Algeria that could bring Muslim fundamentalists to power appear likely after their upset victory in a local polling last week.

President Chadli Benjedid has not yet indicated whether he will dissolve parliament, now entirely run by the ruling National Liberation Front (FLN) and not due for re-election until 1992.

But given the extent of the FLN's rout in the country's first free poll by the Islamic Salvation Front (FIS), and Benjedid's own declared commitment to the democratic process, most Algerians feel general elections before 1992 are inevitable.

"Early (general) elections are certain. The question is when," said Azzaki Ait Arbi, a senior member of the centre-left Rally for Culture and Democracy (RCD), the Berber-dominated party that came in fourth.

"For us the campaign for legislative elections has already begun," he told Reuters.

The popular vote has not yet been released but the FIS won 55 per cent of the 1,541 municipalities, the FLN 34 per cent, independents seven per cent and RCD six per cent.

The FIS lost no time in demanding a dissolution of parliament, and most political observers say the alternative is a prolonged period of social and political unrest.

The country is already racked by an economic crisis and a wave of strikes that has picked up steam since the elections and

ahead of a crucial congress this month of the official trade union, the General Union of Algerian Workers.

The FIS has shown it is not only master of the polls, but the political force most able to control the streets and fill in for a discredited and weakened state, as it did by replacing striking garbage collectors in the capital last week.

As if to make Benjedid's decision easier, the FIS since the poll has had only kind words for the president, also FLN president, who launched a multi-party democracy after October 1988 youth riots.

Benjedid, whose third five-year term expires in 1993, did not rule out co-existence with a non-FLN government when asked about it last March.

The battered FLN, which had ruled unchallenged for 28 years, has vowed to cleanse its ranks — something party reformers have urged with little success since 1988.

A host of centrist and leftist parties led by the RCD are discussing the possibility of a united front.

"The shock may be salutary. Algerians who do not identify with either the corpse of the FLN or the FIS are mobilising. If we can unite all is not lost," said Ait Arbi.

"People who voted for the FIS were highly motivated by outrage at petty corruption by the FLN and the government at the local level. They wanted to punish those who were responsible," said Mahfoud Bennoun, social science professor at Algiers University.

This appeared to open the possibility that if an alternative, either a reformed FLN or a centre-left front, was organised in time the FIS was not an automatic winner.

The Socialist Forces Front of revolutionary war hero Hocine Ait Ahmed, powerful in his native Berber-speaking Kabylie region east of Algiers, is likely to enter a parliamentary race after boycotting the municipal and provincial poll.

The Movement for Democracy in Algeria of ex-President Ahmad Ben Bella, which also boycotted the poll, is also a potential force.

The RCD has called for a delay of between six and 10 months before new elections to allow what it calls the democratic parties to organise, and a non-partisan government to run the country in the meantime.

But the FIS has proved it has not only formidable dynamism and organisational powers, with a head start over all other parties, but a simple message with wide popular appeal.

"The present system is sick, the doctor is the FIS, and the medicine has existed for 14 centuries — Islam," FIS leader Abbasi Madani said recently.



Thomas Pickering

Arabs press for action at U.N.

MANAMA (AP) — Arab leaders are pressing the U.S. ambassador to the United Nations, Thomas Pickering, for positive action on the Arab-Israeli conflict at the next General Assembly session, diplomatic sources reported Tuesday.

Pickering was in Bahrain on the second stop of a swing through the Gulf which he started Monday in Saudi Arabia, amid strong Arab resentment of a recent U.S. veto of a U.N. Security Council draft resolution on the Israeli-occupied Arab territories.

The resolution envisaged dispatching a fact-finding mission to report on alleged Israeli abuses of the Palestinian population, which is in the third year of an uprising against the occupation of the West Bank and Gaza Strip, seized by Israel in 1967.

Pickering's swing is being given low-key treatment officially and in the media of the Gulf and, as one diplomat put it, "the lack of publicity is a message to the United States."

Bahrain, Saudi Arabia and other Gulf Arab countries that Pickering was to continue visiting later Tuesday are traditionally close friends of the United States. But expressions of indignation have been spilling out both officially and through the media at the U.S. veto in May of a resolution that all other 14 members of the Security Council backed.

The Arabs are now looking to alternative action from the General Assembly this autumn where the Arab-Israeli conflict is to be marked high on the agenda, according to the diplomatic sources who spoke on condition they not be named.

Pickering was exchanging views with the Arab leaders on the issues that will come up on the agenda, and which are also expected to prominently include U.N. action in helping Iraq and Iran turn a two-year ceasefire into a lasting peace settlement, said the sources.

The Gulf leaders look to a U.S. stance at the world forum that would project American interest in a just settlement of the Palestinian problem and help balance a detrimental image of pro-Israeli American bias, they said.

In Saudi Arabia, a leading Arab nation and a close ally of the United States in the Arab World, Pickering left late Monday without seeing the Saudi monarch, King Fahd.

His arrival in Riyadh was not announced and a terse statement on the official Saudi Press Agency only mentioned that he met with Foreign Minister Prince Saud Al Faisal and discussed "political issues of mutual interest."

A spokesman for the U.S. embassy in Riyadh said that Pickering's tight schedule precluded a request for a meeting with the King. But Arab diplomats in the Saudi capital interpreted Fahd's not seeing a ranking U.S. diplomat as a sign of displeasure.

Arafat loyalists clash with Abu Nidal's fighters

SIDON (AP) — Yasser Arafat's PLO guerrillas and followers of Palestinian extremist Abu Nidal fought a gunbattle near this southern port city Tuesday. Police said two people were wounded.

A police spokesman said the 15-minute clash with fighters with automatic weapons broke out at 11:45 a.m. (0845 GMT) near the main mosque in the Palestinian refugee camp of Ein Al Hilweh on Sidon's eastern edge.

The firefight erupted as Abu Nidal's Fateh-Revolutionary Council (FRC) group was organising a funeral procession for two comrades killed during a clash with Arafat's fighters in the refugee camp of Rasidiyah near the southern port of Tyre Sunday.

The spokesman, who cannot be named in line with regulations, said it could not be determined who started the clash at Ein Al Hilweh, the largest Palestinian refugee camp in Lebanon, 40 kilometres south of Beirut.

Shopkeepers lowered their shutters and civilians dashed for cover in entrances to buildings as staccato burst of automatic fire echoed across Ein Al Hilweh, which has a population of 31,722 refugees registered with the United Nations Relief and Works Agency (UNRWA).

Witnesses reporting by telephone said red-beretted guerrillas of the Palestinian Armed Struggle Command, the PLO's military police, quickly intervened and disengaged the combatants.

The two dead Fateh-RC guerrillas were sent by ambulance for burial in the Tyre area, 40 kilometres south of Sidon, the police spokesman said.

He said the clash forced cancellation of a rally that Fateh-RC and called to coincide with the funeral procession.

"It would have been an occasion for Fateh-RC to launch vehement verbal attacks on Arafat," the spokesman noted.

Tension swept through Sidon as the intra-Palestinian clash was under way. Several schools closed and students were sent home as residents feared an all-out crackdown by Arafat on Abu Nidal's men in the Sidon region, the police spokesman said.

Sidon is Arafat's main power base in Lebanon. The guerrilla chieftain maintains 5,500 hard-

core guerrillas in the region that commands one of Lebanon's main Mediterranean outlets.

Arafat's guerrillas Sunday cracked down on Abu Nidal's men in Rasidiyah in nine hours of house-to-house fighting across the shantytown that killed at least five people and wounded 16.

By crushing Abu Nidal's men, Arafat established undisputed control over Rasidiyah.

There has been speculation that the guerrilla chieftain would shift his attention to Ein Al Hilweh and the surrounding hills to finish off Abu Nidal's Fateh-RC in areas of Lebanon that are not policed by the 40,000 Syrian troops.

Abu Nidal, whose real name is Sabri Al Banna, is financed by Libya and backed by Syria.

Kuwaiti opposition activists say vote rigged

KUWAIT (R) — Pro-democracy activists in the northern Gulf state of Kuwait renewed their constitutional tussle with the government Tuesday, accusing it of rigging last week's elections for a four-year National Assembly.

"The government used all legal and illegal measures to produce results which conform with its viewpoints," said a statement signed by 30 former deputies who have led the pro-democracy campaign since December.

Kuwaitis, whose oil-wealth makes them among the world's richest people, elected 50 of the assembly's 75 deputies on June 10. The Emir, Sheikh Jaber Al Ahmad Al Sabah, will appoint the remaining 25 members.

It was the first time since the elections that the activists, who urged a boycott of the polls, accused the government of meddling.

Government officials had no immediate comment.

The campaigners, who call themselves "The Constitutional Movement," say the new house is unconstitutional and demand the return of a 50-seat parliament dissolved in 1986 by the Emir. At the time, Sheikh Jaber cited a foreign conspiracy to destabilise Kuwait at the height of the 1980-88 Iran-Iraq war.

Authorities said 62.26 per cent of the 62,000-strong, all-male electorate cast their votes last week.

The assembly, which must meet before July 10, has a mandate to review past parliamentary experiences to produce non-binding suggestions for healthy government-legislative relations.

Voting for a Majlis Al Umma (parliament) is due in 1994.

The 1986 parliament had often taken to task government ministers, including members of the ruling family, and questioned government policies. It was disbanded amid charges that deputies stirred tribal and religious divisions.

"It was not possible for the government to allow free elections which will show the reality of the popular will in rejecting its unconstitutional steps," the activists' statement said.

It alleged the government had threatened Kuwaitis who wished to boycott the polls with disciplinary actions and forced army conscripts and pensioners to vote.

The statement also alleged rigging at polling stations, suppression of detailed election coverage by the official media, including the official Kuwait News Agency, and police torture of what it said was the purchase of votes on polling day.

French envoy begins talks to save collapsing Lebanon peace initiative

BEIRUT (AP) — French envoy Francois Scheer began a series of talks with Lebanese officials Tuesday designed to shore up a collapsing initiative by the Vatican to end 4½ months of intra-Christian fighting.

As the French envoy started his mission, rival Christian forces loyal to rebel Gen. Michel Aoun and militia chieftain Samir Geagea battled with mortars, howitzers and machine guns in east Beirut and the Christian heartland northeast of the city.

The clash, which broke out at 9:45 a.m. (0645 GMT), intensified around noon and police said both sides were using phosphorus shells that started several fires in residential apartments and the woods north of the capital.

They said three people were killed and three wounded in the intermittent exchanges Tuesday as Scheer went into a meeting with Syrian-backed President Elias Hrawi in mainly Muslim west Beirut.

The exchange was a major violation of a ceasefire brokered by the Vatican on May 17 to end the intra-Christian showdown that has left 1,039 dead and 2,777 wounded since the power struggle broke out Jan. 30.

In addition to his talks with Hrawi, Scheer, who flew in late Monday, is to meet Prime Minister Salim Hoss, a Sunni Muslim.

Scheer, secretary-general of the French Foreign Ministry, is scheduled to leave for Damascus after he concludes his talks in Lebanon. No fixed date was set.

"The French government is helping Lebanon to overcome the difficulties it is facing," the French diplomat told reporters after his talks with Hrawi.

Hrawi, Hoss and Parliament Speaker Hussein Hussein, a Shiite Muslim, informed Papal Nuncio Pablo Puente Monday of

their rejection of the Vatican proposal.

The proposal involved reconsideration of an Arab League-brokered peace plan to end Lebanon's 15-year-old civil war in return for Aoun's recognition of the central government.

The peace plan, worked out by Lebanese legislators in the Saudi resort of Taif last October, called for equal distribution of power among Muslims and Christians.

"The dialogue, led by France, could help support the mechanism of the Taif accord," Scheer said.

Asked whether his efforts were coordinated with the Vatican, Scheer said: "The Vatican is exerting serious efforts. I plan to meet the Vatican ambassador in Beirut."

Aoun, also a Maronite, has rejected the Taif accord along with Hrawi's election on Nov. 24.

Geagea, however, has recognised Hrawi as head of state and voiced cautious welcome of the Taif accord.

The conservative daily paper Ad Diyar said Scheer was trying to promote a five-point compromise plan that called for recognition of the Hrawi government by all the warring factions in addition to recognising the Taif accord as "a framework" for a national settlement.

The compromise also called for the formation of an expanded "national government" representing all the factions. This echoed the Vatican's call for Aoun to be given a government portfolio in the proposed executive body.

The French proposal, according to the report, said the Taif accord should be debated by Lebanon's one-chamber parliament and the decision on passing the pact or rejecting it "should be left to the house."

The French effort also called for parliamentary elections "as

soon as possible," the newspaper said without further elaboration.

A government source, speaking on condition of anonymity, said Hrawi, Hoss and Hussein "do not object to Aoun's participation in any government provided he recognises the Taif pact first."

"No reconsideration of the Taif accord is permitted," the source stressed.

"Anyway, constitutional reforms will have to be passed by parliament. Reform proposals will be in line with the Taif accord. But parliament will not consider a new peace plan," the government source stressed.

"Calling for revising the Taif accord as a whole is a very serious step. The Taif accord is the minimum accepted by all the sects. If the Maronites want it amended, then the Shi'ites and others will ask for more power and this would lead us back to civil war," he said.

Aoun's declared reason for rejecting the Taif accord was that it did not include a fixed timetable for the withdrawal of Syria's 40,000 troops from Lebanon.

However, the government source said withdrawal of the Syrian troops was "only Aoun's cover to reject the Taif accord because it decreases the Maronites' traditional dominance of Lebanon."

The Taif accord has been recognised by prominent Maronite politician, George Saadeh, who heads the Falange Party, the largest Christian political organisation in Lebanon.

Saadeh also is minister of post and communications in Hrawi's government.

The Maronites, the largest Christian sect and affiliated with the Vatican, have dominated Lebanon since independence from France in 1943, when the Muslims were a minority.

U.S. claims Libya building new chemical weapons plant

WASHINGTON (AP) — Libyan Leader Moammar Qadhafi may be building a second chemical weapons factory at a remote underground location, U.S. administration officials have said.

The officials, who spoke on condition of anonymity, said in interviews with the Associated Press that it's not clear whether construction is complete.

"We're not sure until then" what exactly the facility will be, one official said.

However, the officials declined to say how the activity that points to work on a second plant was detected or to pinpoint the exact location.

Even so, the State Department publicly registered concern.

"It's dangerous for the entire region, and for the entire world, you could say," spokesman Richard Boucher said. "There are reports that Libya has already used a weapon of mass destruction, chemical weapons, in combat."

He referred to claims Libya used chemical weapons in an invasion of Chad, a neighbouring African country, several years ago.

The officials said Qadhafi's purpose in building a second plant was to divert some poison gas production from Rabta.

Qadhafi claims the Rabta plant is a pharmaceutical production

factory. U.S. and West German officials have said it was producing small amounts of chemical weapons and that Libya was on the verge of bringing production up to full capacity.

Boucher called Rabta a dangerous facility. "We're very seriously concerned about it," he said. "Were reports of a second chemical weapons production facility to prove true, our concern would be that much greater. Our position remains that any chemical weapons facility in Libya must be dismantled."

The spokesman said Rabta is still capable of producing chemical weapons.

"We've spoken with many countries capable of supplying manpower, expertise or equipment to a Libyan chemical weapons facility," he said. "We have urged them, of course, not to do so."

Last week, a West German businessman, Jurgen Hippenstiel, confessed in a regional court in Mannheim that he was responsible for secretly selling a chemical production plant to Libya for \$150 million.

U.S. intelligence, with assistance from such friendly countries as France and Israel, keeps watch over Qadhafi's military activities. The officials declined to say how the "activity" that points to work on a second plant was detected or

to pinpoint the exact location. A French satellite is known to have reported a fire in March at Rabta.

Asked about a front-page report in Monday's Washington Times that Libya was building a second plant, White House spokesman Martin Fitzwater said, "We don't comment on intelligence matters generally. On the other hand, we are making an assessment. We just don't have any conclusions to give."

He said the fire apparently was a hoax and also "a pretty clear indication of intentions and willingness to deceive the world in order to further their own interests on this issue."

Meanwhile, the Libyan News Agency (LNA), as monitored by the British Broadcasting Corp., quoted Qadhafi as urging scientists Sunday to "work day and night" to build a nuclear weapon "in defiance of America."

He also called for development of Libyan space technology.

"America manufactures missiles and puts above our heads satellites," the Libyan leader was quoted as saying. "This provokes our anger and ignites in you the spirit of defiance and revolution to reach space and manufacture the atom." He blamed the United States for withholding technology Libya needs.

Somalia frees 21, detains over 40 critics

NAIROBI, Kenya (AP) — Somali authorities have arrested more than 40 people for distributing what the government says are seditious pamphlets criticising President Mohammed Siad Barre's rule.

The arrests were announced Monday by Ahmad Sulayman Abdallah, deputy secretary general of the ruling Somali Revolutionary Socialist Party. He said another 21 people had been released after proving they had nothing to do with the leaflets.

Amnesty International, the

London-based human rights group, last week claimed up to 50 prominent people, including the country's former president, had been arrested for signing their name to a statement titled "Mogadishu Manifesto No. 1."

The statement, signed by more than 100 people and issued May 15, expressed concern at the destruction, killings and flow of refugees from Somalia's civil war, said Amnesty. It said the statement also criticised the government for violations of human rights, corruption and economic

mismanagement.

Abdallah's announcement, broadcast on state-run Somali Radio and monitored in Nairobi, said authorities were holding "over 40 people" for distributing inside and outside the East African nation leaflets "claiming to advise the president."

He described them as "power seekers" whose aim was to create discord between the people and the government. He did not say when the leaflets first were distributed.

JORDAN TELEVISION		CHURCHES		JORDAN TIMES DAILY GUIDE AND CALENDAR	
Tel: 75111-19		St. Mary of Nazareth Church Swifeth, Tel. 810740		ZARQA:	
PROGRAMME ONE		Assemblies of God Church, Tel. 637785.		Ur. Rahab Al Borni (—)	
15:30	Koran	St. Joseph Church Tel. 624590.		Khalilph pharmacy 985417	
15:40	Programme review	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 637440.		EMERGENCIES	
15:45	Children's programme	De la Salle Church Tel. 661757		Civil Defence Department 661111	
17:30	Educational programme	Terrasanta Church Tel. 623660		Rescue 630341	
18:00	News summary in Arabic	Church of the Annunciation Tel. 623541.		Civil Defence Emergency 199	
18:05	Cairo news message	Anglican Church Tel. 623383, Tel. 628543.		Ressou Police 192, 621111, 637777	
18:30	Local programme	Armenian Catholic Church Tel. 771331.		Fire Brigade 891228	
20:00	News in Arabic	Armenian Orthodox Church Tel. 772611.		Blood Bank 775121	
20:30	Arabic series	St. Epiphane Church Tel. 771751.		Highway Police 843402	
21:30	Arabic programme	St. Euphrasie Church Tel. 771751.		Public Security Department 630321	
23:00	News in Arabic	Armenian International Church Tel. 683326.		Hotel Complaints 605800	
23:40	Play	Evangelical Lutheran Church Tel. 811295.		Price Complaints 661176	
PROGRAMME TWO		The Church of Jesus Christ of Latter-Day Saints Tel. 815817, 654932.		Water and Sewerage 897467	
18:05	Panique aux carabes	WEATHER		Complaints 897467	
19:00	News in French	Bulletin supplied by the Department of Meteorology.		Complaints 897467	
19:15	Documentary	It will be fair with temperatures around the annual average and some clouds appear at different altitudes. Winds will be northwesterly moderate to fresh, causing dust in the eastern		Complaints 897467	
19:30	News in Hebrew			Complaints 897467	
20:00	News in Arabic			Complaints 897467	
20:30	Golden girls			Complaints 897467	
21:10	The Nuclear Age			Complaints 897467	
21:45	News in English			Complaints 897467	
22:00	World Cup: Brazil vs. Scotland			Complaints 897467	
PRAYER TIMES				Complaints 897467	
6:50	Fajr			Complaints 897467	
12:37	(Sunrise) Dhuhr			Complaints 897467	
16:17	Asr			Complaints 897467	
19:49	Maghreb			Complaints 897467	
21:24	Isha			Complaints 897467	

MARKET PRICES	
Upperflower price in file per kg.	
Apples	850 / 750
Apricots	800 / 600
Bananas	580 / 450
Beans (Mushrooms)	450 / 400
Beans	500 / 430
Cabbages	320 / 280
Carrots	200 / 160
Cauliflowers	170 / 120
Corn	130 / 90
Cumbers (large)	100 / 80
Cumbers (small)	200 / 150
Dates	400 / 300
Eggplants	240 / 200
Garlic	100 / 90
Grapes	350 / 300
Lemons	450 / 400
Malabar (large)	90 / 50
Malabar (small)	80 / 40
Marrow (small)	180 / 120
Onion (dry)	180 / 120
Orange	380 / 320
Peas	800 / 700
Pepper (hot)	340 / 300
Pepper (sweet)	450 / 400
Potatoes	350 / 300
Raddish	150 / 100
Sage	250 / 200
Sweet melon	280 / 220
Tomatoes	180 / 120
Watermelon	130 / 100

Home News

Prince Hassan urges Arab-Islamic stand against 'greater Israel' plans

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan Tuesday urged the Arab and Islamic nations to do all they can to abort world Zionism's plans of creating a "greater Israel," inhabited by 7.5 million Jews, by the end of the century.

"Such dreams, by the continued Jewish immigration into Palestine, constitute a grave danger to the Arabs and Muslims because they entail the danger of expanding Israel's borders at the expense of the Arab and Islamic nations," Prince Hassan said in a key note speech at the opening session of an international symposium on Jerusalem affairs.

"Israel's drive to bring in huge numbers of Jewish immigrants who are settled in occupied Jerusalem and the rest of the occupied territories is bound to abort all peace efforts for a lasting settlement," Prince Hassan said.

"There is an urgent need for Christian-Islamic solidarity in defence of the Holy City of Jerusalem and in a bid to abort the

immigration process which constitutes the gravest danger to the Holy Land since the creation of the Jewish state on Palestine," Prince Hassan warned.

The General Islamic Congress for Jerusalem organised the two-day meeting during which delegates from Islamic countries will discuss matters related to the city of Jerusalem, its history, religious importance to various religions and faiths and Israel's practices in violation of the international law as well as Jewish immigration and the creation of settlements around the Holy City.

"Jordan has been pursuing efforts over the past four decades to preserve the holy places in Jerusalem and has carried restoration work at the Al Aqsa Mosque and the Dome of the Holy Rock as well as the Church of Holy Sepulchre between 1956 and 1976," Prince Hassan said in his address which was delivered on his behalf by Speaker of the Upper House of Parliament Ahmad Al Lawzi.

He said that regardless of Jordan's decision to sever legal and administrative ties with the occupied West Bank, Jordan has been providing assistance towards the preservation of the holy places and maintaining the work of Islamic courts in Jerusalem.

"Jordan's endeavours have been backed by the Arab countries whose ministers of housing decided in 1982 to provide financial and technical assistance to the Jordanian institutions taking charge of restoring the holy sites in Jerusalem," Prince Hassan said.

But, he said, whatever has been done is not enough because serious danger is looming mainly represented in Israel's drive to evict the Arab population from the Old City and to settle huge numbers of Jewish immigrants in their place.

Prince Hassan cited Israel's occupation of a Greek Orthodox building and the ongoing excavation work under Al Haram Al Sharif in Jerusalem as examples

Crown Prince bids farewell to pilgrims

AMMAN (Petra) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, Minister of Awqaf and Islamic Affairs Ali Faqr and other officials Tuesday bade farewell to Jordanian Muslims going to Mecca for this year's pilgrimage at the holy places there.

In a brief speech to the pilgrims the Prince emphasised the need for the Muslims to display total Islamic solidarity and unity and wished them happy pilgrimage.

Faqr also delivered a speech on the occasion, thanking King Fahd of Saudi Arabia and the Saudi authorities for their efforts to provide convenience and comfort for the Jordanian pilgrims.

Faqr Monday saw off a group of pilgrims from occupied Palestine as they started their overland trip to Mecca.

Queen, U.N. officials discuss women's centre

AMMAN (J.T.) — Her Majesty Queen Noor Tuesday received at Al Ma'wa Palace a team of experts and officials representing three United Nations specialised organisations who are in Jordan to discuss the prospects of establishing a regional centre for research and training of Arab women in Jordan.

The team briefed Queen Noor on the project, saying that the proposed centre would enhance Arab women's participation in socio-economic development on both the local and national levels, by organising training courses for women in all matters related to family life and socio-economic development.

During the meeting, the Queen praised the team's invaluable efforts in promoting women's role in the development process, and lauded their brotherly work-

ing spirit in integrating various bodies and institutions for the achievement of this cause.

Being a highly-populated country, Queen Noor said, Jordan has a responsibility towards its people, and so, extensive efforts are being made to reach women and their families in order to upgrade women's role in their local societies, thus benefitting the society at large.

The Queen expressed Jordan's readiness to extend every possible support for this project in order to ensure its success, stressing the region's need for such a centre.

The team had earlier paid a visit to the Noor Al Hussein Foundation (NHF) where they viewed the technical and administrative facilities which would be under the new centre's disposal, if it were to be established here in Jordan.

The team which groups representatives of the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the Arab Gulf Programme for United Nations Development Organisations (AGPUNDO) and the United Nations Fund for Population Activities (UNFPA), arrived in Jordan from Egypt and will continue its tour which includes Tunisia, Bahrain and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

The Queen Tuesday received at Al Ma'wa Palace wife of the Indonesian Minister of Manpower Barubara who is currently on a four-day visit to Jordan during which the minister will hold talks with senior officials on promoting bilateral cooperation in the fields of labour, social insurance and vocational training.

Jerash to stage two famous operas in 1991

By Jomana Halasa
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Two Italian operas performed by internationally-acclaimed groups at Jerash are expected not only to draw heavy crowds to the ancient Greco-Roman city but also to boost Jordanian tourism.

The two operas, Norma by Bellini and Otello by Verdi, will be something for Jordan along the lines of what the famous "Aida" was for Egypt — a major international event, which organisers expect to be attended by over 20,000 people, a big majority of them foreign personalities.

"Jordan is giving us a great opportunity to perform a great opera," said Mario Corradi, stage director of "Norma." "Jerash is an incredibly unique place," Corradi told a press conference, Monday. "Nowhere else in this world can you see such a magnificent site."

According to the stage director, it will be the first time that the two operas would be presented in an open-air theatre; Norma will be staged on a full moon night with the Forum and the Temple of Zeus in the background.

Norma is the story of a priestess who falls in love with a Roman officer and breaks her vows to please her lover only for him to leave her for a younger woman. Her tragedy is compounded by her being not only an abandoned lover, but also a scorned mother, according to a synopsis of the play. At the end, rather than to accuse her partner's newfound lover of the sin she is guilty of, she reveals her own sin and accepts to be sacrificed to the moon, a practice she conducted herself as priestess of the god Irmin.

According to Corradi, no other venue could be better for Norma than the temple of Zeus and the Forum on a night of full moon. "It offers a unique, majestic ambience and backdrop," he said.

The other opera is made after the well-known

Shakespearean play "Othello." The two operas will be presented at Jerash in June 1991 immediately after the 1991 Jerash Festival of Arts and Culture.

Minister of Tourism Abdul Karim Kabariti told the press conference that the Jerash Festival was an important element in Jordan's efforts to attract more tourists from different parts of the world in addition to presenting the artistic and cultural as well as historic features of the Kingdom.

He said the tourism authorities were extending support for the organisers of the two operas and special arrangements were being made by private tour operators to offer package tours to Jordan including the Jerash Festival and the Operas. However, he emphasised, the government was not financially committed in any way towards organising the events, "which will be funded by well-known international companies and tour operators."

"The opera performances are significant because they represent the start of a new phase in our strategy of combining the best tourism, antiquities and culture to raise Jordan's profile on the international stage of special cultural events," Kabariti said.

Opera at Jerash is one of the activities that will appeal to culture-oriented international clientele, according to the minister. Other attractions Jordan offers include hiking and mountain climbing in Wadi Rum, safari drives through the eastern desert, scuba diving in Aqaba and therapy with Dead Sea waters, he said.

"We aim at continuing to promote this kind of activities which combine a potential for specialised tourism with opportunities for cultural exchanges within a framework of artistic quality, cultural sensitivity and mutual respect," said Kabariti.

Corradi, the opera stage director, said he expected no

major technical or other problems in staging Norma and Otello at Jerash. "The problems will be minor and could be solved easily," he said in a reply to a question from an Italian journalist attending the press conference. Opera Norma, created by Bellini for Teatro Alla Scala in 1831, will be staged at the Forum at Jerash for three alternate nights starting June 29, 1991, and Otello at the South Theatre for three alternate nights starting July 4. Since the story itself is set against a Roman background, no venue other than the Roman ruins at Jerash could be a better stage for Norma, according to Corradi. "Jerash is a unique, majestic place with the right ambience and backdrop," he said.

Two operas were successfully presented at the Jerash Festival in 1988 and were well-received by Jordanian audience. About 2,000 Jordanians were among the 30,000 people who watched Opera Aida presented against the background of the Great Pyramids in Egypt three years ago, according to reports.

In separate comments to the Jordan Times later Monday, Kabariti said he expected at least 4,000 Jordanians to be among the audience for Norma and Otello.

"It is worth going through this experience," Kabariti countered critics who argued that the staging of an opera like Norma or Otello could be a failure for Jordan.

"Jerash, the ancient city, and Jordan have always been a meeting place and a point of interaction among different people and cultures from East to West," he said.

Lino Cesaria, producer and general organiser of the operas told the Jordan Times: "We will stage a special performance, free of charge, for people who would like to attend but cannot afford it. Music is an international language for peace; it is not for rich people only."

ACC agriculture ministers meet

AMMAN (J.T.) — Ministers of Agriculture in the four-member Arab Cooperation (ACC) countries will meet here Wednesday to discuss subjects related to the implementation of an ACC agricultural agreement.

The agreement aims at achieving coordination in agricultural policies in Egypt, Iraq, Yemen and Jordan, to protect vegetation, combat desertification, to learn the proper use of water for irrigation and ensure sufficient agricultural equipment.

ACC Secretary-General Hilmi Nammar said in a statement to the Jordan News Agency, Petra, that the ministers will define the nature and quality of technical studies aimed at increasing the production of animal feed, and will review a feasibility study for a joint project to produce concentrated fodder. They will also work out programmes and plans for improving the production of vaccines, Nammar added.

According to Nammar, ACC ministers of planning will hold a meeting in Amman Wednesday to discuss proposals for the implementation of a planning agreement, and will try to draw up a joint investment strategy for their four countries. This entails unification of some laws and regulations, encouragement and protection for Arab and foreign investments.

Undersecretaries of the ministries of planning met in Amman Monday and Tuesday to prepare for the planning ministers meeting Wednesday.

WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

EXHIBITIONS

- ★ Exhibition of paintings depicting the Jordanian environment by Adel Al Sharna, Mohammed Assad and Hani Khazaleh at the Housing Bank Art Gallery.
- ★ Exhibition entitled "La revolution: 200 ans apres" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of Ottoman textiles at Abdul Hameed Shomam Foundation.
- ★ Exhibition of orientalist paintings by two German orientalist at the Goethe Institute — open 9-12 a.m. and 4-6 p.m.

LECTURE

- ★ Lecture on "The Future of Islamic Movement in the Last Decade of the 20th Century" at the Royal Cultural Centre — 6:00 p.m.

FILMS

- ★ French film entitled "Trop et Balhazar" at the French Cultural Centre — 8:00 p.m.
- ★ Feature film entitled "Educating Rita" at the British Council — 6:00 p.m.

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Amman - Jordan

Jordan, the Netherlands sign agreement

AMMAN (Petra) — Jordan and the Netherlands signed an executive programme and memorandum of understanding Tuesday for the implementation of a bilateral agreement on cooperation in cultural and scientific fields.

Under the terms of the agreement, the Netherlands will give scholarships to Jordan wishing to do post-graduate studies for 18 months in Dutch universities. Jordan will grant students from the Netherlands similar opportunities for 12 months.

The two sides will cooperate in sports, youth, culture, science and higher education as well as social development and health. They will exchange information and publications in these fields.

The two governments will encourage cultural cooperation, especially in antiquities and museums affairs and will encourage scientific cooperation between universities which can undertake joint research works.

The agreement also provided for an exchange of expertise in fields related to women organisations.

Dialogue reviews shift in Arab-Soviet relations

By Odeh Odeh
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN (Petra) — Participants in the third Arab-Soviet dialogue seminar, which was held at the Soviet Cultural Centre in Amman Monday, stressed the important shift that have taken place in Arab-Soviet relations and urged the Arabs to talk to the public and political institutions which influence public opinion in the Soviet Union.

Jawad Al Anani and Dr. Fahd Al Faraj spoke at the seminar. The three also participated in an Arab-Soviet dialogue held recently in Moscow.

Sharaf said Soviet Jewish immigration "embarrasses the Soviets because it affects the Palestinian question, and at the same time is related to their foreign policy."

She said the Soviets believe they cannot change U.S. policy and that all they can do is to ask Israel not to settle the emigres in the occupied territories.

Sharaf added the Soviets remain firmly behind the idea of covering an international peace conference to solve the Middle East problem. The Soviets, she

added, still support Arab causes. "They give Soviet Jews passports to return back to the Soviet Union if they wished," she said. Sharaf referred to the openness climate which prevails in the Soviet Union and said some pressure groups, such as the Jews, are exploiting this atmosphere.

Sharaf said relations between the Soviet Union and other nations were based on the "balance of interests, which change from strategic to economic in the present."

Anani tackled the issue of the economic dimensions which strongly affect the Soviet Union's political options, particularly those related to Arab states. Anani referred to the Moscow dialogue and said a Soviet exclamation was aroused in the conference concerning Arab investments in the United States, which adopts a hostile attitude towards Arabs and asked why do not the Arabs direct their investments to the Soviet Union.

Anani reviewed the circumstances and problems of the economic correction movement in the Soviet Union and said it was a much similar situation in Jordan.

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Editor-in-Chief:
GEORGE S. HAWATMEH

Editorial and advertising offices:
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Telex: 21497 ALRAI JO
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Try a different wavelength

FROM A FIRST look, the move by the World Zionist Organisation (WZO) to record its opposition to the settlement of Soviet Jewish emigres in the occupied territories through adopting a resolution at its present meeting in occupied Jerusalem to that effect would be seen as somewhat positive. But the impression fades fast into oblivion when one considers that the position is prompted by fears that the wave of massive immigration of Soviet Jews could be slowed down and not by any concern over the Middle East peace process. If anything, the WZO is betting that the newcomers could be settled within the "green line" while "established Israelis" could gradually move into the occupied territories. If that was not enough, consider the pointed reference during the meeting in occupied Jerusalem Tuesday that American aid to Israel could be reduced if the Jewish state continued its settlement policy. Not that we could expect any positive concern from the world Zionist movement over the absence of justice for the Arabs; it would only be simple wishful thinking.

On the other hand, a highly positive signal has come from one of the leaders of the Jewish community in France, Theo Klein, who has issued a warning to Israel that "Jews in the diaspora" do not look kindly upon its refusal to negotiate with the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) and might take it upon themselves to launch contacts with the PLO.

Now, we do not know what percentage of "Jews in the diaspora" does Klein represent or whether his call carries enough weight among world Jewry to pressure or even influence Israeli thinking. But one thing is sure, there is a growing feeling among Jews, whether in the East or the West, that whatever image Israel is transmitting to them, there is something seriously wrong with its approach to the conflict. Klein, by openly challenging Israel to initiate talks with the PLO "to unveil the reality of its intentions," has hit the nail on the head. That's what precisely what the Arabs and many others who are convinced of the sincerity of the PLO's peace overtures have been telling Israel.

Well, the message appears to be taking a very, very long time to reach Israel simply because the Jewish state has switched off that particular wavelength. Perhaps, it is time a different channel was tried — people like Theo Klein who seem to have understood the reality that it is not in Israel's "long-term interests" to keep a blind eye to realistic visions of peace and turn a deaf ear to the voice of reason.

JORDAN PRESS EDITORIALS

AL RA'I said Washington's continued support for Israel and its open hostility to the Arabs are bound to force the moderates in the Arab World towards extremism. The United States and other Western powers realise the great tragedy awaiting the Middle East if the voice of reason and moderation disappeared, and the moderates took to extremism, the paper said. It echoed a call by King Hussein earlier this week on Washington to take a more realistic stand in the Arab-Israeli conflict and to show concern over its own interests in the region. The past three decades emphasised that the United States, under Zionist lobby pressure, has been placing Israel's interests before its own and has been carried away behind Israel and the Zionist movement in showing its total enmity towards the Arab World, the paper said. The United States has indeed declared war on Arab moderation and not against international terrorism as claimed by the Reagan and the Bush administrations, said the paper. Indeed, since the beginning of the 1980s, the United States has been moving more and more towards world Zionist terrorism, creating in the Arab World an extremist element totally hostile to the United States and its allies, the paper said. The situation is becoming more dangerous everyday, with Washington adhering to its policies and the Arab extremists threatening to use the oil weapon against the West and rejecting any dialogue with the Americans, warned the paper. It said if the United States pursues its present policies, it will stifle all voices of reason and open the door wide for extremist reactions.

AL DUSTOUR discussed King Hussein's television interview Sunday in which he said that the present economic crisis in Jordan resulted from this country's endeavours to defend the Arab Order and from the struggle against Zionism and aggression. The paper echoed the King's words that Jordan has been offering sacrifices for the Arab Nation and for Palestine, and that it is now facing a formidable enemy which is bent on pursuing aggression on the Arab countries. Jordan, the paper continued, cannot concede one inch of the Arab land and will continue the struggle despite the crisis and despite the difficulties and the great odds. It said there is no alternative to confront Israel's threats and arrogance other than maintaining Arab steadfastness, and there is no escape from confronting the Zionists to stop their lust for aggression and expansion, said the paper. The paper reiterated Jordan's readiness to offer more sacrifices and defend the Arab Order at all costs.

SAWT AL SHAAB daily said that Jordan now lies at the top of a volcano, and that Israel, with its arsenal of weapons and the new immigrants, is getting ready to introduce changes in the Arab World to make more gains and to achieve further expansion at the expense of the Arab World. The paper recalled the King's words in which he warned the Arab countries and the international community of Israel's evil intentions of trying to acquire the wealth of the Middle East. It said that the Arabs possess 65 per cent of the world's reserves of oil, and this tempts Israel to launch attacks and expand its borders in a bid to reach that wealth. To absorb hundreds of thousands of immigrants, Israel is bound to do just that and it is up to the Arabs to meet the challenge and to come to the aid to Jordan, which guards the confrontation lines with the common enemy, the paper added. It said that only by solidarity and self-reliance can the Arabs impose their respect on the world and deter Israel from committing further aggressions on the Arab Nation.

ECONOMIC FORUM

The virtuous role of consumption

By Dr. Abdalla Malki

THE ESSENCE of economic activity is to produce goods and services that satisfy human needs. These goods and services are produced by enterprises which will have to be shut down if their output is not consumed. Thus more consumption entails higher demand which in turn means higher levels of economic activity, more output, greater income and eventually economic progress. If consumption starts to dwindle, this sequence of virtuous actions will be reversed and we end up with economic deterioration.

Of course, it is well known that a country should not consume immediately all the goods it produces and that it has to save some of them to be used for producing more goods and services. These are savings which are in effect earmarked for future or postponed consumption. Goods like machinery, tools, equipment and raw materials are not consumed directly by human beings but are used to create goods and services which actually are consumed in the process of creation.

It is thus through consumption and more of it that demand is created and boosted and economic progress materialises. And this

is unquestionably an indispensable virtuous role.

Of course, goods and services consumed are either produced domestically or imported. The greater the imports, the greater is that part of the virtues of consumption that accrue to the foreigners and are denied to the national economy. This analysis is very useful to policymaking because what should be curtailed is consumption of imported goods and services and not that of domestic ones. Consumption based on domestic goods and services should be encouraged outrightly because it is the formidable propeller of production and progress. The suppression of this consumption is justified only in very specific cases such as the desire to divert more output for exports, a process which, however, still aims at supplying more goods for consumption purposes at a later stage. Another case for curbing consumption is when the economy gets overheated and the inflation monster is unleashed out.

In this case, it is a very well-established and standard economic logic to resort to the curbing of consumption as a means to dampen inflationary pressures. But to say that inflation should be used as a

means to curb consumption is absolute nonsense for more than one reason. First, even if this solution works and consumption is cut down, we will end up with a malady, namely inflation, which is more serious than the original ailment of excessive consumption. And normally inflation is not a curable disease in developing countries, which means that it will be almost perpetuated. Second, there are other safer ways of curbing consumption such as taxes, interest rate increases and, in the case of consumption based on imports, all those measures which force a cut down in imports including banning and quantitative restrictions.

After the catastrophic failure of currency devaluation in Jordan and the consequential wide jump in inflation it led to, it is incredibly strange to try to justify that unjustifiable action by saying it was necessary to combat consumption through igniting inflation! If that were the case we could have decreed more price increases without going through the agonies of devaluation. However, what Jordan faced in 1989 and 1988 was not excessive consumption but excessive imports, first and foremost.

Egypt reaffirms its call for nuclear arms-free Mideast

The following is the text of a letter dated April 19, 1990 from the permanent representative of Egypt addressed to the president of the conference on disarmament transmitting a letter addressed to the secretary-general of the United Nations from Dr. Ahmad Esmat Meguid, deputy prime minister and minister of foreign affairs of Egypt, concerning the establishment of a zone free from weapons of mass destruction in the Middle East and President Hosni Mubarak's statement in this regard.

Mr. Secretary-General,

The Middle East, as you are well aware, continues to be a highly volatile conflict torn region. Even in these times, where a rising tide of peace seems to be emerging in different regions of the world, as you so succinctly remarked in your report on the work of the United Nations, 1989, "the situation of the Middle East remains a source of profound and intense concern."

Recent developments in the region have further underscored the importance and urgency of safeguarding the Middle East from the ominous implications associated with nuclear weapons and other weapons of mass destruction.

Egypt has, for over 15 years, called for establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East. This position emanated from our unwavering commitment to nuclear disarmament, as well as nuclear weapons non-proliferation, and our deep conviction that the introduction of nuclear weapons into the Middle East would have been devastating consequences on the prospects for stability and security in the region, and for the maintenance of international peace and security in general.

Once again the international community, at the 43rd session of the General Assembly, reiterated its support for the establishment of a nuclear weapon free zone in the Middle East. Resolution 43/65, adopted without a vote, inter alia highlighted certain measures and steps to be considered by states of the region pending the establishment of such a zone foremost amongst which were: — adherence to the Treaty on the Non-Proliferation of Nuclear Weapons, and the application of international atomic energy safeguards to the nuclear facilities in the states of the region.

It is worthy to note that Egypt and the other Arab states that have significant nuclear programmes have undertaken these measures. They have met the standard, universally acknowledged to be a legally binding determination not to acquire nuclear weapons, as well as the verification procedures

imperative to assure compliance. Now it is of paramount importance that all states of the region adhere to the said treaty, and accept the application of fullscope IAEA safeguards to their nuclear facilities.

Egypt has also taken an equally forthcoming position and active role in disarmament efforts relating to other weapons of mass destruction, including in particular chemical weapons. It is Egypt's considered opinion that chemical weapons should be dealt with in a comprehensive and global context involving all types of weapons of mass destruction, whether nuclear, chemical, or biological, in order to ensure international and regional security.

President Hosni Mubarak on April 8, 1990, categorically declared Egypt's support for ensuring that the Middle East become a zone free from all types of weapons of mass destruction. President Mubarak emphasised the following:

1). All weapons of mass destruction without exception, should be prohibited in the Middle East i.e. nuclear, chemical and biological, etc.

2). All states of the region, without exception, should make equal and reciprocal commitments in this regard.

3). Verification measures and modalities should be established to ascertain full compliance by all states of the region with the full scope of the prohibitions without exception. Egypt shall continue to work with states in the region, and beyond, towards declaring the Middle East a zone free from all weapons of mass destruction, and the establishment of the requisite international verification measures, applicable to all the states of the region on an equal basis. It is our sincere hope that the other states of the region will be equally forthcoming in this regard, as we strive to enhance the prospects for a just, lasting peace in the Middle East.

Kindly accept, Mr. Secretary-General, the assurances of my highest consideration.

Dr. Ahmad Esmat Abdal Meguid
Deputy Prime Minister and Minister of Foreign Affairs

Bush seeks clarification

(Continued from page 1)

Likud Party fell in March over Shamir's refusal to accept U.S. proposals.

The Labour Party leader said preparations for war would be economically taxing for both the Arab world and Israel.

"The real mistake would be to return to the whole business of wasting money for war-like preparations. But there is a chance to go the other way," he said.

Asked how long he thought Shamir's new government would last, Peres would say only: "I'm not very good on predicting dates."

EC voices concern

The European Community (EC) is seriously concerned about the attitude of the new Israeli government towards the peace process, Irish Foreign Minister Gerry Collins said Monday.

Summarising a debate among the 12 EC foreign ministers in preparation for next week's summit in Dub-

lin, he confirmed that the community would expand its aid programme for Palestinians in the occupied territories and said it was intended as support for "a political movement."

"The escalation of events... and the known attitudes of the new Israeli government have aroused our grave concern," Collins told a news conference in Luxembourg.

Collins said the 12 EC governments would continue to try to persuade Israel that it should talk to the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO).

"The PLO leadership has staked a great deal in the last two years on its present moderate course," Collins said.

"We will be expanding our programme of assistance in support of the rights and welfare of the Palestinian population. This is intended as support for a political movement as well as moral and practical support for the population of the occupied territories," Collins said.

EC officials said the summit next Monday and Tuesday was likely to issue a statement on the Middle East incorporating the thrust of Collins's remarks.

Political turmoil in ex-colonies poses major dilemma for France

By David Cray
The Associated Press

PARIS — France, long proud of its unmatched commitment to black Africa, now is groping for the proper response to a wave of protests against undemocratic regimes that it has helped sustain.

Although democratisation in Eastern Europe was welcomed unreservedly by the West, Africa poses a policy dilemma without clear solutions.

France, with its own revolutionary heritage, will not repudiate the intensifying cries for change in Gabon, the Ivory Coast, Cameroon and other former colonies. Yet there are worries in Paris that the abrupt ouster of incumbent regimes — even if corrupt or repressive — might unleash ethnic strife and economic chaos without ensuring progress towards democracy.

French officials insist they will not walk away from the problem, and there is much talk about discreetly nudging current leaders towards reform. Several presidents, for the first time, are at least paying lip service to the concept of multi-party elections.

But to some critics, France's discretion is merely camouflage for a lack of strategies.

"Across the continent, tumultuous situations require new ideas," said the independent Paris-based magazine Jeune Afrique. "France is wooed by the governments and the opposition. But for the first time, its African policy seems to have broken down."

"If France perhaps knows what it wants, it doesn't know how to achieve it," said the magazine, one of several in Paris to devote recent cover stories to Francophone Africa's turmoil.

"We must say that we will no longer blindly support compliant dictatorships," said Jacques Barrot, an opposition leader in the centrist United Democratic Front. "If we don't quickly state this policy, we soon will have no alternatives except repeated military interventions or abandoning Africa to chaos and misery."

Recent riots in Gabon gave France a glimpse of what might lie ahead, anti-government protesters briefly abducted a French diplomat, and French soldiers who soon arrived were widely viewed as propping up President Omar Bongo despite official insistence that their only task was to protect European expatriates.

Both Bongo and the Ivory Coast's octogenarian president, Felix Houphouet-Boigny, have treaties providing for French troops to support their governments during internal strife as well as against foreign incursions.

But French officials say there is little likelihood now of direct military intervention, either on behalf of an African leader or against one — such as 1979's "Operation Barracuda," when French troops helped topple the Central African Republic's self-proclaimed emperor, Jean-Bedel Bokassa.

"The post-colonial period is over," said Foreign Minister Roland Dumas. "It's up to Africans to resolve their problems."

Other former colonial powers — Britain, Portugal and Belgium — have invested less of their international prestige in the continent, and have not emulated France's familial relationships with African leaders.

Ironically, the United States — never an African coloniser — faces dilemmas similar to the French in Liberia and Zaire, recipients of extensive U.S. aid.

American diplomats have urged authoritarian presidents Mobutu Sese Seko of Zaire and Samuel K. Doe of Liberia to allow political pluralism, but neither Zaire's fragmented opposition nor Liberia's rebel leader Charles Taylor has obtained formal backing in Washington.

French President Francois Mitterrand has a longstanding reputation as an advocate of Third World interests, but some critics say European affairs now preoccupy him at Africa's expense. He will be under pressure to convey a clear-cut message regarding human rights when he plays host to the biennial Franco-African summit meeting June 19-21.

More than 25 African leaders many facing emboldened domestic opposition — are expected at the summit in La Baule, a resort on Brittany's Coast of Love. It may prove less than amorous, with the Africans demanding more debt relief while France lectures them on democracy.

Cooperation Minister Jacques Pelletier, who oversees French aid to Africa, summarised current government thinking at a news conference last week: "There is no true development without genuine democracy."

But he said multi-party systems, while "a good thing," are "not the only method" for attaining democracy.

A more blunt assessment came from former Premier Jacques Chirac, a conservative. Multi-party politics, he said, "is a sort of luxury" that developing countries "don't have the ability to provide themselves."

Last year's upheavals in Eastern Europe galvanised Africa's

political dissidents. So did the dramatic changes in South Africa, long a favourite target of indignation from black African leaders.

"When the 'great satan' of South Africa legalises its opposition and frees its worst enemies, the second-rate dictators elsewhere find themselves very much alone," said the leftist Paris daily, Liberation.

Africa's political turmoil coincides with bleak economic conditions — unmanageable foreign debt, falling export income, population growth exceeding food production. French businesses are looking elsewhere for profits that are more reliable and less tainted by corruption.

Pelletier says the number of French firms in Africa has dropped by 25 per cent from its peak. Many companies are eyeing Eastern Europe as a preferable venue.

"This trend is worrisome, but not catastrophic," said Pelletier. "France's aid to Eastern Europe is very different from that reserved for the south. There will be an expansion of efforts. Not a subtraction."

France currently provides more than \$2.5 billion annually in bilateral aid to sub-Saharan Africa, compared to \$693 million allocated by the United States for the coming year.

More than 125,000 French expatriates live in the region, hundreds of French firms operate there, and 14 countries base their currency on the franc. France has defence treaties with six sub-Saharan countries and deploys about 6,000 soldiers there.

Said Pelletier, rejecting a phenomenon dubbed "Afropessimism" by the press: "Africa needs our determination, not our discouragement."

Mutt'n' Jeff



Andy Capp



Peanuts



Social hangups in Jordan hinder nursing profession

By Nur Sati
Special to the Jordan Times

AMMAN — Female nurses have been struggling with their image and status for many decades and more specifically in the Arab World, where traditional values and society have maintained a strong grip on how women interact with men in society. Furthermore, nurses have always been characterized as passive, nurturing handmaids of physicians and are dependent and somewhat subservient.

Even now, in many Arab countries, women are reluctant to enter the nursing profession for fear of being viewed upon as uneducated and unskilled, says Dr. Rowaidah Mae'tah, vice president of the Faculty of Nursing at the Jordan University of Science and Technology in Irbid.

The issue of male-female physical contact is an added barrier to those women who think of entering the profession. In Saudi Arabia, for example, women have second thoughts about becoming nurses because of social factors, traditional values and family objections. The situation may not exactly be the same in Jordan, but there are still parental reservations over daughters becoming nurses.

"My father started threatening me as soon as I told him about my future career. He began picturing me cleaning a male body and constantly giving him my attention," said a nursing student at the Jordan University.

Over the past few years, society has been shaping up the image of nurses directly or indirectly. Nevertheless, the result is visible in the way the nurses view themselves. Females entering the profession hold low self-esteem, Mae'tah said. According to a questionnaire distributed to 190 women chosen from four different universities in Baghdad, only 3.2 per cent enjoyed being a nurse while the rest did not want to be practising nurses in the future. The reasons behind the negative responses were the attitudes of families, relatives and friends towards the profession.

Una Ridley, who presented a working paper on the profession of nursing earlier this year, said: "Students entering the profession bring with them a variety of attitudes, beliefs, and values about nursing and nurses. These attitudes often reflect the society's views of the profession and have continued to develop during their early lives through experiences with parents, teachers and the media."

Jordan is facing similar problems. At the University of Jordan's Faculty of Nursing, students are not yet sure why they are enrolled in the course. "I did not know what else to do. I don't really like this profession, but my qualifications did not permit me to select another career. Besides, I thought it was an easy subject to grasp without much effort," says a first year student of nursing.

Another expert states that most nurses entering the pro-

fession "have selected it because of a desire to help people. What they discover is that altruism and good intentions are not enough and that nursing is a demanding profession requiring considerable intelligence and skill."

"This seems to be the case with the majority of the women. They decide to take on this career as a last resort thinking it does not require much mental strain," says Mae'tah.

Research has revealed that public perceptions of a professional group are important because they influence the person into accepting or rejecting the profession and society is able to define the sort of functions that a profession is permitted to perform. Such perceptions determine the morale of the concerned professionals and their economic and social position in the community.

What society does not seem to realize is that the nurse is an important element to the hospital. Her task involves devoting her time to the patient and being the doctor's right arm. So the nurse has to "know a lot about medicine and the doctor's role," Mae'tah says.

"It is surprising to note that many doctors hold the same belief of the nurses as society," she asserted. Although some of them do not agree, most physicians have the impression that nurses are unskilled and treat them so.

But a doctor in Amman admits, "I could not carry out my daily affairs in hospital without a nurse. Doctors end up

relying on them so much that in fact they become more important and essential."

What could be done to influence the distorted image of nursing by utilising the media?

So far, media representation, mainly television series, have not played a constructive role in portraying nurses. Many programmes have portrayed nurses as saints.

Thomas Erskine, an expert, said that "Although Aaron Spelling, producer of 'Nightingale,' claimed that the series would present a 'more contemporary, reliable approach' to the lives of nursing students, the show actually features an outmoded, nursing education model, exploits women as commodities, and more closely resembles the sexually suggestive feature films it ironically criticizes in an episode."

The programmes have developed nurses into a God-like figure possessing unlimited powers in making things always go right. However, this is not the case. "We are human and very realistic," says Mae'tah.

But Eiman Jafar, another expert, states that recently, "Jordanian television has been trying to portray nurses in a more positive manner in a series known as Abu Awwad."

Few would challenge the impact of the mass media on public opinion. Many experts believe that the image reflected by the media carries the ability to penetrate into the minds of nursing students as they learn and step into their professional roles.

'Free trade' is another name for playing freely in Tunisia

By Jonathan Wright
Reuter

SFAX, Tunisia. — "Welcome to the market place of the Maghreb," said Hassan, proudly displaying his stock of Algerian light bulbs, leather shoes from Morocco, chocolate bars from Egypt and pasta made in Libya.

Hassan, who runs one of some 500 stalls down by the docks in the Tunisian port of Sfax, would like you to believe he is leading the drive for regional economic integration. "We believe in free trade," he said. "We don't pay customs duty and we don't intend to either."

But as five north African countries take the first steps towards establishing a common market stretching from Tobruk to the Atlantic coast, the merchants of the so-called "Libya market" in Sfax are making the most of the remaining discrepancies.

The market, which sprang up in the months after the Libyan-Tunisian border reopened in Dec. 1987, depends on a complicated series of political and economic anomalies which have little to do with integration.

Every day hundreds of Tunisian pick-up trucks make the trip across the border to buy goods imported by the Libyan government with heavily overvalued Libyan dinars.

They take with them Tunisian products, like clothes and household goods, or imported goods which are unavailable in Libya because the state trading companies do not import them.

When money changes hands, it is at the rate of one Tunisian dinar to one Libyan. At the official rate the Libyan is worth three times as much.

The system, tolerated so far by both governments, results in some bizarre opportunities for profit.

one high-quality export brand of Tunisian olive oil, for example, finds its way back to the Tunisian market, undercutting the low-grade subsidised oil which the Tunisian government provides for domestic consumption.

Diplomats say they have even seen on sale blends of cooking oil which contain Tunisian olive oil exported to the European Community under a preferential quota. The EC sells it to Libya with export subsidies and it trickles home at knock-down prices after passing through at least two countries.

The Algerian lightbulbs are available in Tunisian supermarkets, imported through legal channels, but they cost 50 per cent more than the ones sold to Libya and trucked in small quantities 400 kilometres across the border to Sfax.

Only the Egyptian goods,

which include plastic toys, Mir instant coffee and Sheikh Al-Balad bubble-bubble tobacco, seem to be competing on something approaching the rules of free trade.

That a chain of private operators can relay these goods across North Africa, mark up the prices by several hundred per cent and still make a profit is an amazing tribute to the export potential of the Egyptian economy.

But Sfax traders, easy pickings may not last indefinitely. At Libya's General People's Congress (parliament) in March, many of the delegates advocated closer controls over the trade, which is a serious drain on the Libyan treasury.

Libyan ministers have argued that the money they lose is a form of contribution to the cause of Arab unity. Those who oppose the trade are narrow-minded nationalists, they say.

But if the Libyan authorities go ahead with plans to introduce ration cards for subsidised goods then rice, coffee and corn oil could disappear from Hassan's shelves overnight.

On the Tunisian side the arguments are more complicated, with the Tunis politicians, the civil service, shopkeepers, industrialists and consumers all having their say.

Civil servants, horrified by traders who can provide no



receipts or certificates of origin for the goods they peddle, threatened in March to impose restrictions to end the trade. The sight of Tunisians in jeans standing by the roadside and waving bundles of black-market Libyan dinars at passing motorists was a shock to functionaries trained in the scrupulous methods of the French bureaucracy. "We would like the trade to conform to the regulations on health and customs duties and so on," said a Sfax civil servant. Industrialists complained of unfair competition for their goods while consumers and the traders were in favour of importing cheap goods and stimulating Tunisian exports.

CIA experiences American glasnost

By Joan Newer
Associated Press

WASHINGTON — The CIA is refocusing its operations to look at issues such as international economic competitiveness, terrorism and narcotics, but some experts say the agency is moving too slowly to keep up with changes in the post-cold-war world.

The collapse of the Berlin Wall and the disintegration of the Warsaw Pact have tempered the great U.S.-Soviet rivalry and prompted the CIA to undertake a wide-ranging self-analysis to determine what it should be doing and where it should be going.

"The transformation of our intelligence priorities is beginning," Sen. David Boren, Chairman of the Senate Intelligence Committee, wrote in an opinion piece in Sunday's Editions of the New York Times.

"The congressional oversight committees are working with the CIA to develop an innovative, long-term strategy that sheds cold-war priorities and focuses on language and cultural skills and economic expertise," Boren wrote.

At CIA's complex in the Bueh Woods overlooking the Potomac River just outside Washington, a senior intelligence official said there was "great debate" under way about the agency's future.

"There is more intellectual excitement in this building than there has been in years," the official said in an interview. He asked not to be identified by name.

At the same time, the official said the CIA was navigating in "choppy seas" that make predicting a difficult job, particularly when foreigners themselves are unclear about their future. For instance, he said no one had a crystal ball to see that Romania and Bulgaria would choose communist governments in their elections.

The agency, meantime, nervously is eyeing budget cuts being made by Congress in the defense department, where most of the money for intelligence is put, the official said.

The intelligence budget, which includes money for the CIA's sister agencies such as the Defense Intelligence Agency and the National Security Agency, was estimated to be about \$28 billion in fiscal year 1990. The intelligence agencies want to avoid any proportional hit when defense is pared.

"The intelligence community will be scrutinized," said Representative David McCurdy, chairman of the house intelligence subcommittee on oversight and evaluation. "I see cuts in those areas that primarily support military functions."

Covert action — the area that has brought the agency its greatest notoriety — comprises only about 3 per cent of the CIA's budget. The bulk of the agency's work involves analysing voluminous data from various sources.

Practicing their own form of glasnost, CIA officials and some

members of Congress these days speak forthrightly about unique opportunities in 1990 for re-evaluating operations and goals, as well as the daunting challenges.

But they insist intelligence needs will not diminish, they'll simply be different.

"The era of the cloak and dagger may be over, but the cloaks are likely to multiply and become even more pervasive in their effort to procure military, industrial and commercial secrets," said Sen. William Cohen, the ranking Republican party member on the Senate Intelligence panel.

"It is time to face new enemies — drugs, terrorism, poverty, brush fire wars and pollution of our planet," he said.

And while some spies will come in from the cold, "many more will bask and flourish," Cohen said. Boren agrees. The "growth area" is the industrial espionage that is carried out by foreign governments against private U.S. companies.

"More and more, the aim of espionage is to steal private commercial secrets for the sake of national economic purpose," Boren told the National Press Club recently.

"We're going to have to know about foreign governments' intentions for oil production levels, exchange rates and trade policies," he said. "We're going to have to protect our own commercial enterprises against the theft of commercial secrets."

David Whipple, Executive Director of the Association of

Former Intelligence Officers, predicted the intelligence agencies are "looking forward to a very prosperous future."

But some observers are concerned that the CIA, a cumbersome bureaucracy, may not be up to the task of retooling its operations.

"I think they understand the pressure and the demands for re-examination and a development of the new strategic plan, but I think they are a long way from accomplishing it," McCurdy said. "I have not been satisfied with the pace of change," he said.

There desperately "needs to be a new look at the whole thing," he added.

McCurdy said he is concerned that the CIA has too few independent thinkers, linguists, women and minorities and "creative geniuses." He said conformity is counterproductive to understanding a changing world full of people from different races and backgrounds.

One example might be the restless nationalities in the Soviet Union. Jeffrey Richelson, author of a recent book, America's Secret Eyes in Space, said it frequently takes years to develop a reporting network that will allow the CIA to know the ins and outs of, say, politics in Azerbaijan.

But the agency is optimistic about the future. An CIA Director William Webster says the man who really counts — President George Bush, a former CIA director himself — has no gripes.

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Jordan Times' JORDAN MARKET PLACE

Oil prices tumble below \$16 per barrel

Iraq slams Arab countries for slide in world oil prices

BAGHDAD (R) — Organisation of Petroleum Exporting Countries (OPEC) heavyweight Iraq Tuesday blamed quota-busting by some of the other Arab states for the current slide in world oil prices, joining a growing chorus of alarm among producers.

U.S. crude oil futures dropped below \$16 per barrel Monday to 18-month lows, down more than one-third since January.

Oil for delivery in July slid \$0.68 a barrel to \$15.94 on the New York mercantile exchange, after dipping as low as \$15.90 during the day.

The last time prices for West Texas intermediate, the benchmark U.S. grade of crude, closed as low as in December 1988.

Declines in Europe were less dramatic, but prices for Brent blend crude from the North Sea, the world benchmark, slid almost \$0.20 to \$14.85 a barrel in London.

Traders said the latest drop was because the market could see no evidence that two Middle East over-producers, the United Arab Emirates (UAE) and Kuwait, had done enough to cut output in line with OPEC orders.

Iraqi Oil Minister Issam Abdul Rahim Al Chalabi oiled names in a statement published Tuesday but said that some producers caused the glut by raising output last winter when a freak cold snap temporarily boosted U.S. fuel demand.

"This had encouraged some states, among them... Arab ones, to take certain attitudes to affect the price levels... they have increased production on a large scale," Chalabi told Al Iraq newspaper.

"What happened was that some OPEC member-states did not abide by the decision (to cut output)... and I say, they did not abide by it probably with premeditation," he added.

The Iraqi minister's statement followed a warning last week by OPEC President Sadok Bousena of Algeria that there was a risk of a crash similar to one in 1986 when prices fell below \$10 per barrel.

King Fahd of Saudi Arabia, the biggest exporter, said Monday night that strict discipline in OPEC was the only way to achieve a market recovery.

The king said: "Saudi Arabia has abided and continues to fully abide by its quota and again hopes that all will adhere to their quotas in the interest of oil producers and consumers alike," according to the Saudi Press Agency (SPA).

Price weakness is costing Arab producers around \$60 million a day in lost revenues, according to regional oil industry experts.

Iraq, using its oil income to rebuild its economy after the Gulf war with Iran, is a founder member of the 13-nation OPEC and owns around 10 per cent of the world proven reserves. Only

Saudi Arabia has bigger reserves.

OPEC agreed at crisis talks in Geneva May 3 to cut excess output by six per cent to around 22 million barrels per day (bpd) for the period May through July.

But its secretary-general, Subroto of Indonesia, said last weekend that cuts in May only totalled about 400,000.

Gulf-based traders say Kuwait had started to cut output during the second half of this month but the UAE had not.

But they doubted whether Kuwait's cut would exceed 200,000 barrels per day (bpd).

Chalabi quoted officials of over-producing countries as saying "they were not able to reduce production in May, promising to strive to do that in June."

He said rapid action to cut production would protect their interests and income as well as those of other producers.

World demand for OPEC oil in 1990 is currently seen at around 22.0 million barrels daily, analysts said.

Unconfirmed reports that Kuwait was offering price reductions to Japanese customers similar to those reportedly pledged by Saudi Arabia two weeks ago also sent prices sharply lower, sources said.

Trade sources have said that both Kuwait and Iran are being pressed to at least match the Saudi cuts. Trade reports that Saudi Arabia was discounting its July contract prices by up to \$0.70



Issam Al Chalabi

cents a barrel to Asian customers sent prices tumbling two weeks ago.

Analysts said that once prices penetrate \$16 a barrel, the next level of major support lies at \$15.40 a barrel. But prices could slip lower.

"If gasoline starts to lose its punch then (crude) could reach \$15.25 to \$15.50 in the next two weeks," said Jayne Ball at New Century Resources.

OPEC is not seen likely to cut production soon.

"With OPEC nations having financial problems, they are unlikely to initiate production cuts to solve the global oil glut," said Toshio Inoue, manager for Cosmo Oil's International Affairs Division.

Even if OPEC nations successfully cut output, oil prices would be unlikely to show any significant recovery in next two months due to high levels of global crude stocks, an official at another Japanese oil firm said.

Mitterrand urges aid plan for Soviet Union

PARIS (R) — President Francois Mitterrand said in an interview published Tuesday that France would urge the West in the next few weeks to consider a major economic aid programme for the Soviet Union.

He told the daily Le Monde he believed President Mikhail Gorbachev was capable, despite great difficulties, of raising Soviet living standards.

But if he failed to hold the country together there could be grave international repercussions.

"Therefore, I intend to ask the forthcoming summit in Dublin European Community (EC) and Houston (Group of Seven industrialised democracies) to consider financial, commercial and technical aid for the USSR," Mitterrand told the paper.

The 12-nation EC meets in

Dublin next week. The Group of Seven, comprising the United States, Japan, West Germany, France, Britain, Italy and Canada, meets in Houston from July 9 to 11.

Mitterrand said: "If Mikhail Gorbachev succeeds, which would be in all our interests, that will have raised the standard of living of the Soviet people and loosened, decentralised and adapted the constitutional and political system of the Soviet Union."

"I believe he's capable of it, even though the task is terribly difficult," Le Monde quoted Mitterrand as saying.

"If not, the rise of nationalism threatening the implosion of the Soviet Union will set off a cycle of confrontation and violence which will have grave international repercussions."

'Reforms needed in Africa to end crisis'

LONDON (AP) — Africa needs to revitalise its commodity industries to emerge from its current "deep crisis," according to a team of United Nations experts.

"African policy makers must use commodity production and trade as the motor for expansion," the team of experts said in a report released in London, Monday.

There is a "need for economic reform throughout Africa" to allow it to win back commodity markets lost to developing countries in Asia and Latin America, the team's chairman, former Australian Prime Minister Malcolm Fraser, told a news conference.

Success in the commodities markets would help put the continent's economies on the path to growth, he said.

UN figures show that Africa's share of the world exports of cocoa and coffee have slipped sharply during the past 20 years. Those two commodities and oil and copper generate about two-thirds of the continent's foreign exchange.

"Africa is in deep crisis," the report said.

Africa's share of the world cocoa market is now under 60 per cent, compared with nearly

75 per cent in 1970, the report said. For coffee, the figure is now below 20 per cent, compared with nearly 30 per cent, it said.

Africa's overseas debt in the same period rose from \$108 billion to \$220 billion, according to UN figures.

UN Secretary-General Javier Perez de Cuellar established Fraser's 16-member team of experts a year ago to look into Africa's problems in commodities and to come up with solutions.

Africa's commodities markets have been depressed, with coffee and cocoa prices hitting 14-year lows earlier this year and crude oil prices hitting two-year lows in recent months.

African governments have primary responsibility for turning their economies around, the report said.

Real growth opportunities exist in the commodity sector, based on rising world demand for raw materials, it says.

Fraser said he saw the potential for increased sales of African commodities to the Soviet Union and other East European countries.

The UN group recommended better organisation of production, marketing and transport.

Commercial Union launches UCITS

AMMAN (J.T.) — Commercial Union announced today the launch of its first international investment product, the Commercial Union Privilege Portfolio, with 18 sub-funds covering equity and currency markets around the world.

The Luxembourg-based Undertaking, for Collective Investment and Transferable Securities (UCITS) umbrella fund will be available from 1st June 1990 and offers investors in the Middle East, the Far East and Europe, access to a wide range of investment markets within a single product. The selection of fund can be changed up to eleven times in any one year, free of charge.

Tony Wyand, Executive Director, Commercial Union Group said: "We are the largest UK insurer in continental Europe; the introduction of the Privilege Portfolio will enable investors to benefit from our international expertise and distribution channels. We will be marketing Privilege Portfolio in the UK, France and Spain as well as throughout the Middle East and Far East."

Commercial Union has plans for a further 18 funds which will be launched as markets develop. It also plans to take advantage of its European network of local offices and will be introducing Privilege Portfolio to other EC member states as authorisation is granted.

Wyand said: "The flexibility of Commercial Union's UCITS, together with our innovative and disciplined approach, enables investors to take full advantage of the rewarding investment opportunities presented by the single European market, both now and in the future."

West's high-tech firms still wary about trade with East

By Catherine Arnet Reuter

LONDON — Uncertainty and caution. The watchwords remain the same for Western electronics companies which deal with Eastern Europe despite a big relaxation on trade in equipment once thought to be defence-related.

In the most radical decision of its 41-year history, the 17-nation Coordinating Committee for Multilateral Export Controls (COCOM) slashed by one-third in early June a list of exports barred for security reasons from Warsaw Pact countries.

At a stroke, U.S. officials said, the way was clear for American goods to the reform-minded East Bloc worth about \$45 billion.

But makers of telecommunications equipment, computers and machine tools remain wary.

Eastern Europe, suffering from a severe shortage of foreign exchange and grappling with weak domestic economies, must still face the problem of how to pay for such advanced equipment.

"The main obstacle is not COCOM but price," said Stefan Widomski, vice president of export operations for Finnish electronics group Oy Nokia AB.

East Bloc states might turn to lower priced producers such as South Korea or Singapore, rather than buy from the West.

"Even if the restrictions are lifted, I don't think we will be very competitive," Widomski said.

COCOM, whose members include all 16 North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO)

countries except Iceland, plus Japan and Australia, decided to ease trade restrictions on 30 of 116 restricted categories of equipment and plans to eliminate eight more categories by August.

The new rules will permit exports of the most advanced personal computers and some models of minicomputers and mainframe computers, previously barred completely.

They will also allow more sophisticated telecommunications equipment, enabling East European countries to gain access to desperately needed modern telephone systems.

Recognising a special situation in East Germany, COCOM eliminated all trade controls between the two Germanys except for a small number of items with direct military applications.

It also agreed to give preferential treatment to Poland, Czechoslovakia and Hungary, which were deemed to be less of a strategic threat than the Soviet Union.

Companies and analysts were as yet unsure how much increased business the changes would bring. One guideline could be China, which doubled its high-technology trade with the West after COCOM eased restrictions there in 1985.

According to the Economist Intelligence Unit, an independent London-based forecasting group, COCOM members shipped \$1.12 billion worth of high-tech equipment to Warsaw Pact states in 1987, but no one sees a doubling of trade yet.

Besides the East's cash shortage, there was also uncertainty about how each member of COCOM would interpret the changes, since each nation

must decide how to apply the rules to exports.

Most manufacturers were awaiting more information from their own governments before determining the impact on business.

"We know the limits have been raised but we want to know how far and we want to know what products are concerned," said a spokesman for French computer maker Compagnie des Machines Bull.

A spokesman for Siemens AG of West Germany, Europe's largest computer maker, said: "The COCOM decision will not have a direct impact."

U.S. to set tone

There is an assumption that the United States, always the most hardline member of COCOM, would set the tone for the interpretation of the rules by other members.

"I think the reaction from Washington is very important irrespective of what directions have been taken to the COCOM meeting," said Bo Landon, marketing manager of Sweden's Telefonaktiebolaget L M Ericsson.

Washington gave one hint of its view when it vetoed, along with Britain, a \$500 million proposal by U.S. West Incorporated and British Telecommunications to build a fibre optic cable across the Soviet Union. It argued that the project called for equipment with potential military applications.

But communications experts said the veto may not prevent the deal from moving ahead, because other countries may take a different view of what is a lucrative project.

AMMAN EXCHANGE RATES

Tuesday, June 19, 1990 Central Bank official rates			
U.S. dollar	Buy	Sell	118.4 119.1
Japanese yen (for 100)	667.0	671.0	434.1 436.7
Deutsche mark	1141.4	1148.2	353.7 355.8
Swiss franc	398.2	400.6	109.8 110.5
	471.9	474.7	54.3 54.6
			193.6 194.9

LONDON EXCHANGE RATES

LONDON (R) — Following are the buying and selling rates for leading world currencies and gold against the dollar at mid-session on the London foreign exchange and bullion markets Tuesday.			
One Sterling	1.7110/20	U.S. dollar	0.5844/54
One U.S. dollar	1.1730/40	Canadian dollar	0.7050/60
	1.6755/60	Deutsche mark	1.8840/50
	1.8840/50	Dutch guilder	1.4140/50
	34.46/47	Swiss franc	5.6330/80
	1228/1229	Belgian franc	1228/1229
	153.65/75	French franc	153.65/75
	6.0700/50	Italian lire (for 100)	6.0700/50
	6.4500/50	Japanese yen	6.4500/50
	6.3750/3800	Swedish crown	6.3750/3800
One ounce of gold	348.65/349.05	Norwegian crown	348.65/349.05
		Danish crown	
		U.S. dollars	

WORLD STOCK MARKETS

TOKYO — The market closed lower in very thin trading. A lack of fresh news related to currencies or interest rates and caution ahead of Tuesday's Japanese money supply data helped dampen interest. The Nikkei fell 161.60 to 32,376.80.

SYDNEY — The market closed firm in relatively featureless trade dominated by turnover in major banking stocks. The All Ordinaries Index closed up 3.6 at 1,506.1.

HONG KONG — Closed for Queen Elizabeth's birthday holiday. The Hang Seng Index closed Friday at 3,201.52, up 9.97.

SINGAPORE — Prices closed mixed in thin and very quiet trading after selective bargain-hunting alternated with some selling. However, large gains in some stocks on the Straits Times Industrial Index pushed it up 14.43 to 1,545.72.

BOMBAY — Share prices rose broadly as renewed monsoon rains brought droves of investors back to the market after two weeks of sluggish trade. The Bombay Stock Exchange Index rose 5.37 points to 791.32.

FRANKFURT — A brief mid-session buying spree pushed the Dax Index above 1,800 but buying orders tailed off as prices rose. The index closed at 1,797.42, up 5.16.

ZURICH — Shares closed broadly lower on light volume. The SPI Index fell 6.8 points to 1,179.1.

PARIS — Prices were lower by midday, testing resistance around the key 2,000 level on the CAC-40 index. At 1115 GMT the index was down 12.47 at 1,999.40.

LONDON — Shares added to earlier losses in late trading and were near their lows for the day following a 20-point slide soon after the New York opening. At 1446 GMT the FTSE 100 index was down 22.8 at 2,369.5.

NEW YORK — Stocks fell sharply in morning trading, hit by futures-related selling and a continuing drop in U.S. bond prices. The Dow was down 22 at 2,914.

HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR WEDNESDAY JUNE 20, 1990
By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

GENERAL TENDENCIES: An opportunity that you thought had gone by the wayside has in part become an option again. Try to resolve this project and get it back on line with trusted associates.

LIBRA: (September 23 to October 22) Consider your own intimate urges and what you can do to make them come true in your everyday living and you make this an unusually good day.

SCORPIO: (October 23 to November 21) Think about the various friends and acquaintances who can be helpful to you in pursuing your personal aims and you get some desired support.

SAGITTARIUS: (November 22 to December 21) Whatever you have agreed to do where public matters that can affect your reputation and good name are concerned should be done scrupulously.

CAPRICORN: (December 22 to January 19) Take some moments to refresh yourself upon the requirements for some new interest that intrigues you and then pursue adding to such knowledge.

AQUARIUS: (January 20 to February 18) The various income and facilities that require attending to can now be put into right perspective and an intelligent course arranged.

PISCES: (February 19 to March 20) Put yourself in a position to get the truth from a recent partner how you can best operate more closely in union with this individual.

ARIES: (March 21 to April 19) This is a fine day to get right into whatever your daily activities are whether of a personal, business, sales or government nature so do them well.

TAURUS: (April 20 to May 20) Take a good look at your appearance and what can be done to make it more as you feel most comfortable and happy in the association of others.

GEMINI: (May 21 to June 21) Take a second look at what is occurring at your home and just what you can do to improve the efficiency and operative skill shown there.

MOON CHILDREN: (June 22 to July 21) There are a number of items about the condition you need to do in the usual outside routines that should claim your undivided attention.

LEO: (July 22 to August 21) This is the time to get into just how you are going to handle the everyday expenses and assets which put your business affairs in good order.

VIRGO: (August 22 to September 22) Many private concerns, big and small, are now in your con-

THE Daily Crossword

ACROSS

- Uproar
- Serves
- Lower in rank
- Scarfier
- Game area
- Risk
- Grain after steeping
- A dance
- Floorboard
- With 36A, message on mail
- Jumble
- Age
- Mourn
- Philippines
- Steal from
- patina
- Passageways
- Chemical ending
- See 20A
- A contraction
- Sound
- Twelvemonth
- Watch the kids
- Kind of tier
- In a tender manner
- Equal pref.
- Sedan
- Kind of mail
- Mature
- Strength
- Air pollutant
- Worship
- Deer
- A Logan
- Civet's cousin
- Wee
- Hector Hugh Munro
- DOWN
- Abbr. in grammar
- Spring
- Woody's son
- Earthenware fragment
- Shocked
- Hack
- Cock-and-bull story
- Salad
- Accalmie
- Kind of laugh
- Bedouin
- qua non
- Wapiti
- Brown color
- Slouch
- lealt
- Violin name
- Dewy
- Day
- Reverse
- Adjust a watch
- Tatum or Ryan
- Like a tavern
- Titled one
- Nursery item
- Part of Car.
- Summaries
- Informed
- Discharge
- Eastern germant
- "Whatever wants..."
- Egg part
- Newspaper
- Mail

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THE BETTER HALF

By Harris

HARRIS 5-19

JUMBLE

THAT SCRAMBLED WORD GAME
By Herri Arnold and Bob Lee

Unscramble these four jumbles, one letter to each square, to form four ordinary words.

KEVOE

TUMON

SWEENT

UFTOIT

WHAT KIND OF MUSIC DID THE FIDDLER'S SQUEAKING SHOES MAKE?

Now arrange the choiced letters to form the surprise answer, as suggested by the above cartoon.

Answer here:

Yesterday's Jumble: HAZEL DRAWL FROLIC INFECT
Answer: What was the story about the dog that chased the stick for two miles? — "FAR FETCHED"

ECONOMIC NEWS IN BRIEF

Iraq buys five Airbus
BAGHDAD (AP) — State-owned Iraqi Airways has concluded a deal to buy five A-310 Airbus aircraft to update its aging fleet, airline chief Nur Al Din Safi said Tuesday. Safi said the half-billion-dollar deal would be signed June 24 after representatives from Iraq and the European consortium Airbus Industrie finish drawing up the agreement. Al Safi, who described the purchase of the advanced aircraft as a turning point in the airline's history, said three of the planes will be delivered in 1992 and the others in the following two years. He said the deal will be financed by 10 Arab and other banks and Iraqi Airways would pay in installments over 12 years, but he declined to comment on terms of the financing of the deal or disclose the names of the banks. The deal was ratified by a state economic committee headed by Deputy Prime Minister Saadoun Hamadi, who supervises contacts with foreign companies. Iraqi Airways plans to buy at least 30 Airbus aircraft of various types over the next 15 years to replace its aging Boeing 727, 737 and 707 planes, Al Safi said. The 200-to-250 passenger A-310 was demonstrated in Iraq in February. Iraqi Airways is believed to be planning to operate the aircraft on its Middle East and European routes.

Namibia asks to join IMF
WASHINGTON (AP) — Namibia, newly independent of South Africa, has asked to join the International Monetary Fund (IMF). Switzerland, Bulgaria and Czechoslovakia are also seeking to join the 152 member governments. The fund lends only to member countries. Membership in the fund is followed by membership in its sister organization, the World Bank, the biggest source of aid to Third World countries.

Fuel shortage cuts power in UAE
ABU DHABI (R) — A fuel shortage, which a local newspaper said was due to mounting debts to suppliers, plunged parts of the United Arab Emirates (UAE) into darkness Monday night. Residents in Ras Al Khaimah, Umm Al Quwain, Fujairah, and Ajman, and parts of Sharjah said many people slept in air-conditioned cars or outside to avoid summer temperatures of over 40 degrees Celsius (over 100 Fahrenheit). "Power generators stopped because diesel fuel ran out," said a local official. The smaller emirates produce little, or no oil and have suffered persistent supply problems but over such a hiccup. Diesel fuel comes largely from the two big oil-producing emirates of Abu Dhabi and Dubai. Al Bayan newspaper said Tuesday that the supply crunch was due to rising debts owed to fuel suppliers. Local officials said power was partially restored Tuesday after small amounts of fuel arrived, but they expected the problems to continue.

French cafes boycott Coca-Cola
LILLE, France (R) — Cafe owners, restaurateurs and hoteliers in northern France began a boycott of Coca-Cola Monday in protest against plans to install vending machines for soft-drinks across the region. Sales in small cafes and hotels could fall by half if Coca-Cola goes ahead with its plans, a regional trade association said in announcing the ban. "This new sales method is harmful because it could serve as an example to other bottled drinks firms," it said in a statement. Another trade group in southwest France recently launched a similar boycott for the same reason.

Argentines lament tie with Romania

BUENOS AIRES (AP) — Argentines lamented their soccer team's 1-1 tie against Romania in the World Cup playoffs Monday, feeling their players had fallen short of their status as titleholders.

Local fans felt a few, fleeting moments of glory when Pedro Monzon headed into Romania's net after 62 minutes for a 1-0 lead.

But six minutes later Gavril Balint damped their joy by scoring Romania's equalizer, sparking off bickering among Argentines about their team's lackluster performance.

"At times we played well and at others we played badly. I think (head coach Carlos) Bilardo must be running past us like a hot knife through butter," President Carlos Menem said at government house after the match.

Other fans pilloried the teams for playing conservatively. "Both played to tie. I expected something else from Argentina but it's obvious that (captain Diego) Maradona is 90 per cent of our team. If he is not up to scratch, we're nothing," office worker Julio Diana said.

The draw left Argentines wondering which teams they will meet in the next round of the playoffs. Many were worried about having to face arch-rivals Brazil, but some expressed hope. President Menem, who last year played a full 90-minute match with Argentine international to raise funds for the poor, was one of the optimists.

"We've always played good matches against Brazil — they've won some, we've won others. But I think we can reach the next round beating the Brazilians," he said.

Balint propelled Romania into the World Cup's second round for the first time.

Argentina also advances to the second round with a third-place finish in Group B.

Romania finished second in the group, because it scored more goals than Argentina, which also finished the round with three points.

"The result is historic for Romania," said coach Emilech Jonei. "In four previous tries, Romania never past the first stage of the championship."

Soviets win and lose; Cameroun loses and wins

BARI, Italy (AP) — Cameroun was a big winner despite being crushed by the Soviet Union. The Soviets were filled with bitterness after their victory.

In the top-heavy scheme of World Cup soccer, Cameroun won the championship of Group B Monday while losing 4-0. The Soviets earned a long trip home.

The "indomitable lions" clinched the group title thanks to Argentina and Romania playing to a 1-1 draw in Naples. They then said the embarrassing defeat to the Soviets helped their chances in the second round.

"A defeat is always a very good lesson," said Cameroun coach Valery Nepomnyashchy. "I think my side is an intelligent team, and an intelligent team cannot make gross mistakes two times in a row. I hope today's defeat will bring our players back to the ground."

Defender Stepano Tawata, the Cameroun captain, said the defeat may lessen the pressure on a team that entered the game with-

out a loss in its World Cup history. It played three draws in 1982, but failed to advance on goal differential, and won both previous matches in Italy.

"A defeat makes people ask themselves questions about what went wrong and forces them to look for solutions," he said. "This defeat has taught us a lesson."

The Soviets had lost their previous two games and entered the contest needing a huge margin of victory and a loss by either Romania or Argentina to keep alive its slim chances of advancing to the second round.

It produced the big triumph, but Romania and Argentina did not cooperate.

"Tonight's victory did not take away the bitter taste of the earlier defeats," said Soviet coach Valery Lobanovsky. "It is a shame we cannot continue in the championship."

Lobanovsky reflected on the poor finishing that plagued his

team in its 2-0 losses to Romania and Argentina and repeated his assertions that poor refereeing hurt his team in both contests.

Romania scored its second goal against the Soviets on a questionable handball call. Against Argentina, the Soviets did not get a handball call against Diego Maradona they thought they deserved.

"If my players could repeat the matches with both Romania and Argentina I think they would have scored the goals they didn't score," Lobanovsky said. "And I think that the mistakes by the referees, big mistakes, would not be repeated."

Tawata warned that Cameroun's second-round opponent, who has yet to be determined, should not be too confident after watching the team apart against the Soviets.

"A lot of people are saying this is the beginning of the end for Cameroun," he said. "But I bet you we are going to go farther."

Sweden needs victory to advance

GENOA, Italy (AP) — After two near-misses, Sweden must beat Costa Rica in Wednesday's Group C finale to have any chance of reaching the knockout stage in the World Cup.

Brazil, which edged Sweden 2-1 and Costa Rica 1-0 for four points, already has qualified for the second round. But the Brazilians have not yet clinched first place in Group C.

The battle for the nether second-round berth — and possibly a third spot since four third-placed teams also qualify — is wide open. It could very well be settled on goal differential.

Costa Rica upset Scotland 1-0 in its first ever World Cup finals game June 11 and then lost 1-0 to Brazil. It could advance by drawing Sweden.

Wednesday's game will be the first ever between Sweden and Costa Rica.

"We can't afford to lose even 1-0 against Sweden," said Costa Rica's Yugoslav coach, Bora Milutinovic. "But we are going to draw. I am optimistic. Sweden played well against Brazil, less well against Scotland, so they are hard to judge."

Milutinovic, who has improved Costa Rica's style of play in less than four months as coach, is not expected to make any changes for Wednesday's game.

Sweden made two changes in its 2-1 loss to Scotland Saturday and coach Ollie Nordio announced two new starters Tuesday.

Midfielder Glenn Stromberg, a substitute in both previous games, will replace injured Jonas Thern.

Johany Ekstrom, also a sub against Brazil and Scotland, will play up front with Tomas Brodin. "Stromberg was an easy choice because of Thern's injury," said Nordio.

Thern, who plays for Benfica Lisbon, suffered a back injury in the physical game against Scotland.

Stromberg, a hard-working veteran from Atlanta in the Italian league, came on as a sub and scored a late goal against Scotland.

Nordio told his players that it's going to be a soccer war at Luigi Ferraris stadium.

"We have to play aggressively and work, work, work," said Nordio. "Now we have to prove ourselves."

It is do-or-die for Sweden, which topped its qualifying group ahead of England.

Yugoslavia beats UAE to reach second round

BOLOGNA (R) — Yugoslavia qualified for the second round of the World Cup finals with a 4-1 win over Group D underdogs the United Arab Emirates (UAE) Tuesday.

The goals by Darko Pancev, a replacement for the injured Srecko Katanec, and one apiece by veteran Safet Susic and Robert Prosinecki gave Yugoslavia the win they needed to go through for the first time since 1974.

Striker Ali Thani Juma caught Yugoslav goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic napping to pull one back for the Emirates but the team's final outing at their first World Cup was marked by injuries and a sending off.

Ali Thani limped off at half-time and leading midfielder Nasser Khamis Mubarak was also substituted in the first half after a foul which Yugoslav midfielder Dragoljub Brnovic a booking.

UAE were reduced to 10 men in the 77th minute when Khalil Ghanim received a red card for a foul on Pancev.

Susic celebrated his 50th cap by putting the Yugoslavs, twice World Cup semifinalists, ahead after just four minutes.

He ran down the centre to

meet a heavily angled cross from the right from Refik Sabanadzovic and headed home as goalkeeper Mohsin Mohammad Faraj jumped in vain.

Four minutes later, the Yugoslavs, playing like a team rather than a collection of individuals for the first time here, were two goals ahead thanks to Pancev.

The Red Star Belgrade striker won the ball just outside the area after a mistake by UAE midfielder Nasser Khamis Mubarak and turned to shoot to the right of the diving Mohsin.

As the Yugoslavs began to ease up, the UAE, who also lost both their other group matches, pulled a goal back in the 21st minute. Adnan Khamis Talyani crossed for Ali Thani in head past the surprised Ivkovic.

But Ali Thani's joy did not last. He limped off, supported by two coaches, at half-time after injuring his left leg and was replaced by Fahad Khamis, himself not long recovered from a groin strain.

The Yugoslavs returned after the break determined to keep pressing and within the first minute Pancev had put them 3-1 ahead.

Captain Zlatko Vujovic cross-

ed the centre where Pancev beat defender Khalil to the ball and slotted it home.

More misfortune struck the UAE when Khalil, one of their strongest players, was sent off for a foul off the ball on Pancev. He had already received a yellow card.

The loss proved costly when Prosinecki, a 79th minute substitute for Sabanadzovic, scored the fourth goal in injury time.

He brought down a high cross and looped the ball over the heads of the watching UAE defenders.

The Yugoslavs appealed for a penalty when defender Khalil Ghanim appeared to trip Pancev as he ran into the area but Japanese referee Shizun Takada waved play on.

As Yugoslavia began to sit back on their lead, the often disorganised but determined UAE began to try counter-attacks and Ali Thani Juma reduced the deficit to 2-1 in the 21st minute.

He headed a cross from the left from Adnan Khamis Talyani and goalkeeper Tomislav Ivkovic hesitated a split second too long to reach it.

Brazil faces tough test today

TURIN, Italy (AP) — Scotland's manager says Brazil is a team that lives on its reputation and one that won't intimidate his squad when the two World Cup soccer teams clash Wednesday.

Brazil, with two victories and four points, has already qualified for the second round and could clinch the Group C leadership with a draw. Scotland could qualify with a draw, but a win would clinch a second-round berth and a win by two goals or more could give it the group leadership.

"We are not afraid of Brazil, they live a lot on reputation," said Scotland's coach Andy Roxburgh. "When it is over they will know they've had a match."

"Brazil isn't going to flee from any battle. Brazil isn't going to lose to Scotland," retorted Brazil's Sebastiao Lazaroni at a press

conference.

"Brazil will play to finish first in Group C. We are going to win," said Lazaroni.

"If somebody said right now: 'OK, you can have a draw,' I'd take it. But that's not the way we play," said Roxburgh. "We will attack when we can and defend when we must."

The match will pit Brazil's precise, controlled style against Scotland's strong running and long passes.

Brazilian forward Romario, playing for the first time in the cup Wednesday, wants to score to show he deserves to be a regular starter.

But the other players also have something to prove. The coach and the team have been criticised by Brazilian fans and press for paying too much attention to

results, and not attacking enough. The team wants to prove it can still attack and score.

Brazilian fans were unhappy with the team's cautious style in its opening 2-1 victory over Sweden. They booed the team off the field when it could only beat Costa Rica 1-0.

Scotland, meanwhile, was stunned in its opening match by a 1-0 upset loss to Costa Rica 1-0 and appeared set for a humiliating World Cup. But they beat Sweden 2-1 last Saturday to keep their hopes alive.

Scotland has qualified for five consecutive World Cup, but has never made it past the first round. Brazil is the only country to have played in every World Cup. It has won it three times, most recently in 1970.

Lottery may end deadlock

PALERMO, Sicily (AP) — Four World Cup teams face the prospect of having to count on lottery luck to determine which advances to the second round of the World Cup soccer championship.

England, the Netherlands, Ireland and Egypt are deadlocked in

Group F, each with two ties and a 1-1 goal differential.

If Thursday's final games in the group — England-Egypt and Ireland-Netherlands — produce ties of the same score, a draw will determine the group's two finishers.

But any team that wins Thursday will clinch a second-round berth.

The top two teams from each of the six first-round groups qual-

ifying for the second stage, along with the four third-place teams with the best records.

Thursday's Group F games are being played simultaneously in Palermo and Cagliari, so coaches will lack the tactical edge of knowing the other game's result ahead of time.

Dutch manager Leo Beenhakker he won't get into number games.

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West Germany, Colombia tie

MILAN (R) — Two goals in the dying minutes left West Germany and Colombia all square at 1-1 in a last bruising encounter in Group D of the World Cup Tuesday.

Second half substitute Pierre Littbarski appeared to have sealed it for West Germany with an 89th minute strike which would have given the title favourites a 100 per cent first round record.

But Colombia hit back three minutes into injury time when Freddy Rincon charged into the penalty box and fired a shot because goalkeeper Bodo Illgner.

It was a dramatic end to one of the most rugged matches of the tournament in which four players — three from Colombia — were booked.

West Germany topped the group with five points following outstanding 4-1 and 5-1 wins over Yugoslavia and the United Arab Emirates (UAE).

Colombia, who beat the UAE 2-0 but lost 1-0 to Yugoslavia, finished with three points which were enough to take them through the last 16 as one of the best third-placed finishers.

Three Colombians — Luis Fernando Herrera, Gabriel Gomez and Leonel Alvarez — and West German defender Thomas Berthold were booked in the bruising battle in which the South Americans were desperate for a point to give them a lifeline to the second round.

Herrera failed to move back in the defensive wall at a free-kick, Gomez chopped down Stefan Reuter and Alvarez hacked down

broke away through Voeller on the left flank.

Alvarez brought down the striker and was booked, with Valderrama still on the ground. Four minutes after the original incident, Valderrama was stretched out but soon returned.

After the incident he was booed by West German fans to the 72,510 crowd every time he touched the ball.

ANNOUNCEMENT

Advices of the STAATSBANK of the German Democratic Republic for natural persons and corporate bodies or other authorities with residence or seat outside the German Democratic Republic concerning the currency conversion within the scope of the monetary union between the German Democratic Republic and the Federal Republic of Germany can be looked through at the Embassy of the German Democratic Republic in Amman.

The monetary union is to become effective on July 1st, 1990.

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To get a form and explanatory leaflet contact the Consular Section, British Embassy, P.O. Box 87, Abdoun.

* 15 September 1990 in Northern Ireland.

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GOREN BRIDGE

WITH OMAR SHARIF
A TANNAN HIRSCH
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A NECESSARY PRECAUTION

Both vulnerable. West deals.

NORTH
♠ 7 3
♥ A K 7 4
♦ A Q 10
♣ Q 10

EAST
♠ 10 4
♥ 9 5
♦ 7 9 6 2
♣ K 9 5

SOUTH
♠ A Q J 6 2
♥ 10 5
♦ 10 8 4
♣ A 5 2

The bidding:
West: North: East: South:
1 NT: 2♦: Pass: Pass:
2♦: Pass: Pass: 3♦:
Pass: 4♦: Pass: Pass:
Pass.

Opening lead: King of ♠

The bridge world is still reeling from the onslaught of computers as competitors. While chess-playing computers have already defeated grandmasters, no bridge-playing computer can hold its own against a good club player. This hand, for instance, would be completely out of reach of any computer.

South's jump to three spades was treated as an invitational bid, since he could have cue-bid three clubs to create a game force. However, North must have taken it as forcing. How else could you justify raising to game with 15 points, of which 2

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The Old Man and the Crook Arabic

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Russians to form own communist party under Soviet umbrella

MOSCOW (AP) — Soviet President Mikhail Gorbachev Tuesday endorsed the formation of a Russian Communist Party within the national party, but warned that friction between Russian and central leaders could destabilise the nation.

"I view... the Russian Communist Party as part of the Soviet Communist Party. And I sharply disagree with those who seek the salvation of Russia in withdrawing from the Soviet Union," Gorbachev said in a Kremlin address. The meeting is viewed as a belated effort of the watershed 28th congress of the Soviet Communist Party due to start on July 2. Gorbachev, chairman of the bureau that is organising the Russian Party, appeared firmly in control of the founding conference, which opened Tuesday in the Kremlin Palace of Congress. He strongly defended his cautious economic and political reforms, and resisted efforts by radicals to open a debate on Russian sovereignty. He successfully sought to steer the conference on a centrist course, between radicals who want to hasten steps toward a market economy and conservatives who want to slow the reforms.

Lone Soviet hijacker surrenders in Finland

HELSINKI (AP) — A lone hijacker Tuesday forced a Soviet airliner with 54 passengers and five crew members to land in Helsinki, Finland, where he asked for asylum and surrendered, Finnish and Soviet sources said. Passengers left the aircraft as it stood, surrounded by police, beside a runway at Helsinki Airport. The hijacker, identified as 22-year-old Oleg Kozlov, surrendered after Finnish officials threatened to shoot him. Finnish radio said the hijacker was escorted through Finnish air space by Finnish Air Force planes and touched down at Vanta Airport near Helsinki about 10:40 a.m. (0740 GMT). The airliner had been on a flight from Riga, capital of the Baltic Republic of Latvia, to Malmö on the northern Kola peninsula. Finnish radio said the hijacker was escorted through Finnish air space by Finnish Air Force planes and touched down at Vanta Airport near Helsinki about 10:40 a.m. (0740 GMT). The hijacking was the second of a Soviet domestic flight in 10 days.

U.S. troops killed, injured by friendly fire in Panama

WASHINGTON (R) — Two U.S. troops were killed and at least 19 wounded by fire from their own forces in the Dec. 20 invasion of Panama, the Defence Department has said. The Pentagon statement also said a third U.S. death was under investigation and that 21 other Americans may have been wounded by fire from their own forces in the pre-dawn attack by thousands of paratroopers and special forces troops. The statement was in response to a report in Newsweek magazine that up to nine of the 23 Americans killed in the invasion may have died from friendly fire and that up to 60 per cent of the more than 300 U.S. wounded may have been hit by U.S. fire. But the Pentagon said 20 of the 23 Americans dead were killed by enemy fire in fighting with Panama Defence Forces (PDF) and other supporters of Panamanian strongman General Manuel Noriega. "Of 23 American servicemen killed in action in Operation Just Cause, it has been determined that two were killed as a result of friendly fire... In the case of one additional serviceman killed in action, it has not been determined if his death was a direct result of friendly or enemy fire," the Pentagon said. "The other 20 deaths were from enemy fire," Major Kathy Wood, a Defence Department spokeswoman, told Reuters. The Defence Department statement said that 19 of the 324 Americans wounded were caused by friendly fire. "An additional 21 were injured by either friendly or enemy fire during the intense night fighting in the vicinity of the Commandancia (PDF Headquarters)," the Defence Department said. "We cannot distinguish which of the 21 were hit by friendly or enemy fire." The invasion resulted in the arrest of Noriega, who was taken to the United States where he is still facing drug trafficking charges. Noriega denies the charges.

Gunman on rampage in Florida kills 8, himself

JACKSONVILLE, Florida (R) — A man previously convicted of manslaughter and carrying a pistol and a hunting rifle methodically shot his way through a car loan office Monday, killing eight people, and then took his own life. Police said they believed the gunman had also killed two people the day before. The 15-minute shooting spree began when James Pough, 43, entered the front door of the General Motors Acceptance Corp office and ended when he shot himself in the head at the rear door, police said. Police said they believed Pough had killed a man and a woman in his neighbourhood early Sunday in what Duval County Sheriff Jim McMillan described as a "prostitution and pimp burn." Pough's Pontiac Grand Am Auto was repossessed last February — he drove an old Buick to the crime scene Monday — but McMillan said it was too early in the investigation to determine what role that played in Monday's killing spree. Wearing a blue sport shirt, Pough arrived at the General Motors office shortly after 10 a.m. and without saying a word began mowing down customers. Then he moved swiftly but systematically through the office, shooting at workers who tried to huddle under their desks to escape the bullets, people and hospital sources said. He killed six people on the spot. Two victims died in hospital Monday afternoon. Five other people were still in hospital in the evening, two in stable but critical condition with up to eight bullet wounds apiece. Pough used a 30-calibre rifle — believed to be the weapon used in the killing of the pimp and the prostitute — and a .38-calibre revolver. "He was loaded for war," said one policeman on the scene. Later police found a 9-mm automatic pistol in his Buick, and discovered that he owned two other weapons, registered in his name. Sheriff McMillan could not immediately explain how Pough, a convicted felon, had obtained the necessary permits. Pough was arrested in 1971 on murder charges after an incident at a local bar. Convicted of the lesser charge of manslaughter, he served five years' probation.

The Communist Party of Lithuania has followed the most radical course, separating from the national party several months before the Lithuanian parliament voted on March 11 to secede from the Soviet Union. The founding conference of the Russian Communist Party came a week after the republic's parliament approved a resolution calling for further legislation to declare that Russian laws supersede Soviet laws on Russian territory. The resolution, which did not carry the force of law, opened the door for the Russian parliament to pass legislation transferring most political and economic decision-making power from central to republic authorities. The champion of that movement is the newly elected president of Russia, Boris N. Yeltsin, who sat near Gorbachev on the day Tuesday. The decision to found a separate Russian party comes in response to two otherwise antagonistic political movements. Radicals, including Yeltsin, view formation of the party a means of weakening central authority and hastening the reforms. Conservatives, especially nationalists, see a Russian party as a vehicle of preserving political and cultural traditions. Several hours into the conference, it was not clear which course the delegates might choose. Although Gorbachev acted as chairman of the session, he was not among the candidates considered likely to be elected as first secretary, or leader, of the new party. Those in the running were the Soviet premier, Nikolai Ryzhkov, Interior Minister Vadim Bakarin and Yuri Mananenko, a secretary of the national party, said Andrei Girenko, another national party secretary. Delegates to the Russian party conference voted 2,607 to 61, with 16 abstentions, to adopt the agenda proposed by Gorbachev, to consider the formation of the Russian party, and to debate the proposed platform of the national congress.

4 Indian police die in Kashmir rocket attack

SRINAGAR, India (R) — Kashmiri militants used grenades and rockets in a sneak attack on two hotels housing Indian security forces Tuesday, killing four policemen and wounding six. "We were taken by surprise by the attack which lasted 30 minutes," a police officer on the scene said. He said it was the first time Muslim militants fighting to end Indian rule in the Himalayan region had used rockets against security forces. A group calling itself the Muslim Jambaz Force claimed responsibility for the attack on the hotels overlooking Dal Lake in Srinagar, the region's main city. In peaceful times the lake and its houseboats are the centre of the scenic region's lucrative tourist industry. Police believe the attack was in retaliation for Monday's killing by security forces of Muhammad Abdullah Banoor, a field commander of the Hezb-Ul-Mujahideen, one of the several militant groups fighting Indian rule. About 4,000 people defying a 24-hour curfew gathered in the old quarter of Srinagar Tuesday to take Banoor's body for burial but riot troops and police broke up the crowd with canes and batons. There were no immediate reports of injuries or arrests. Police later allowed about 20 relatives and friends of the dead man to accompany a police lorry which carried the body to a cemetery. "I don't feel sorry for my son. He died a martyr for the cause of the nation," said the rebel leader's father, Mohammad Ismail Banoor. Police said the two lakeside hotels, 150 metres apart, came under fire simultaneously.

Liberian rebels repeat call for Doe's exile

FREETOWN, Sierra Leone (AP) — The leader of the rebel delegation to Liberian peace talks says the insurgents have not agreed to a ceasefire and continue to demand the exile of President Samuel Doe. Thomas Wocwiyi, interviewed Monday night, also spurned Doe's offer of a general amnesty that would permit the insurgents to set up their own political party. Doe Monday lifted the ban on several opposition political parties and said the National Patriotic Front could set up a party without fear of a crackdown. "Doe has no authority to grant anybody amnesty. He is not in a position to grant amnesty," said Wocwiyi. He added, "our ultimate leader (Charles Taylor) controls the military machine, and whatever Doe says will not stop our military leader's military planning. We did not commit him at the peace talks to the reduction of his military activities." The rebel delegation signed an agreement calling for both sides to exercise restraint during the recess in the talks, and calling for mutual inspections of troop and supply movements.

Bulgarian opposition rejects coalition with Socialists

SOFIA (Agencies) — A key opposition leader has rejected the victorious Socialist Party's call for a government of national consensus, saying he refuses to join hands with reformed Communists. Run-offs in Bulgaria's first free elections in 58 years, left the former Communist Party with a majority in parliament, but opposition parties won 47 per cent of the vote, making them key players on the future political scene. Premier Andrei Lukanov said he was confident of forming a government with broad support. But his chances remained uncertain because of opposition from Zhelev Zhelev, leader of the 16-party Union of Democratic Forces, which finished a strong second with 36 per cent of the vote. The UDF Coordinating Council, the disparate alliance's executive organ, was scheduled to meet Tuesday to develop a joint stand, and informed sources said heated discussions were expected. Before the election, Zhelev had raised the possibility of a government of non-political professionals, but he said Monday this was only in the event of a hung parliament and with the Socialists winning a majority it was no longer an option. But Peter Beron, another senior UDF official, said a government of experts remained a possible formula to be considered. In an interview with the Associated Press, Premier Lukanov reiterated his refusal to head a cabinet composed only of members of his own Socialist Party, which changed its name from the Communist Party in April. "We will resolutely... move in the direction of a democratic European leftist party," said Lukmanov. "The ideal solution for Bulgaria will be a stable centre-left coalition." He said such a coalition "will enjoy for years, if not decades, the support of the majority." Lukmanov, 51, an economics expert, welcomed Zhelev's initial suggestion about a government of experts and professionals. "This does not mean I accept his idea. I note with great interest his recognition that a government... if it is to be successful has to be supported by all political forces," the premier declared. Zhelev described the outcome of the elections as "very good," saying "this means we are a strong constructive opposition, and the BSP (Socialists) will be a weak one-party government." "In such a situation, as is usual in theory and practice in the world, they have to form their own government," Zhelev said. "If they don't like that, they can form a government of experts of their own, but we will not be part of it." Lukmanov suggested that splits in both the Socialist Party and the UDF could change Bulgaria's political landscape and ensure ultimate stability. "The present distribution of forces is rather artificial," the premier said. "It hides the diversity of views, interests, ideological positions." Bulgaria's new government must first tackle the country's \$10-billion foreign debt, rising inflation and consumer goods shortages. The newly elected unicameral grand National Assembly

Sri Lankan army recaptures Trincomalee after fierce fighting

COLOMBO (R) — Sri Lankan troops waging all-out war against Tamil rebels have recaptured the major east coast port of Trincomalee after fierce fighting, military sources said Tuesday. The sources said government forces were also advancing in three columns on the town of Batticaloa, 140 kilometres south Trincomalee. The two towns have seen some of the most severe fighting since the Liberation Tigers of Tamil Eelam (LTTE), who want an independent state for Sri Lanka's Tamil minority, launched their latest offensive on June 11. The sources said Trincomalee was wrested from the Tigers after a fierce battle Monday, the day the government ordered its forces on the offensive after peace talks failed. "From now on it is all-out war. We will annihilate the Tigers," said Deputy Defence Minister Ranjan Wijeratne, who is in charge of military operations. Wijeratne told parliament the security forces had killed 600 Tigers since the fighting began last week. "Our losses have been minimal," he added. Other sources said 100 soldiers might have died in combat. Some 215 policemen abducted by the rebels were reported to have been lined up and shot dead. The Tigers captured 20 police stations, abducted 800 policemen and seized arms, ammunition and vehicles last week. Seven of the police stations were reported to have been recaptured by government forces. The Tigers, in a statement issued from their London office, said the security forces had launched a "major offensive." "Over 100,000 Tamils and Muslim people have been made refugees in the Batticaloa district as a direct consequence of massive offensive operations by the Sri Lankan Armed Forces," it said.

U.K. cuts defence budget by \$1b

LONDON (R) — Britain cancelled Monday an order for an estimated 33 Tornado fighter-bombers, a mainstay of NATO air power, after disclosing that inflation had eroded its defence budget by £600 million (\$1 billion). Defence Procurement Minister Alan Clark told parliament he could not foresee "any place for additional Tornado aircraft in our programme" and had decided against authorising further work on the next batch order. He did not say how many of the planes were involved. They are built by a European consortium of British Aerospace, Messerschmitt-Boelkow-Blohm, a subsidiary of West Germany's aerospace, defence, and automobile conglomerate Daimler-Benz, and Italy's state-owned aerospace group Aeritalia. British media said orders for 33 of the £25 million (\$43 million) aircraft would be cancelled. More than 920 Tornados have been sold, mainly to member states of the North Atlantic Treaty Organisation (NATO) alliance. Clark and Defence Secretary Tom King, who addressed the House of Commons earlier, blamed higher than forecast inflation for forcing one of the deepest cuts in Britain's military spending in years. Britain's defence budget is set to rise by five per cent this year to £21 billion (\$36 billion). But when inflation is taken into account, the increase becomes a three per cent cut in real terms. The possibility of a so-called peace dividend from the lessening of superpower tensions and democratisation of Eastern Europe is being considered separately by the Defence Ministry in a review called "options for change."

Burmese military ruler warns against early power transfer

RANGOON (AP) — The head of Burma's military junta Monday stressed that his government will not be rushed into handing over power to the civilian opposition that won the national elections on May 27. Gen. Saw Maung said a new constitution must be drafted and emphasised that it will be a complicated and lengthy process, in a speech before the members of historical commission. "A constitution should be sound and stable so that there would be no subsequent problems arising out of its shortcomings," he said. He implied that the constitution adopted in 1947 at the end of British rule was flawed and led to national strife that climaxed with the 1988 civilian uprising against the military. Burmese took to the streets that year to press for democracy, briefly triumphed then were brutally crushed by army gunfire. Several thousand civilians were killed. "We will not tolerate recurrence of the 1988 situation," said the general, "and will not tolerate endangerment of our three basic duties — preventing disintegration of the union, preventing disintegration of national solidarity, and perpetuating national independence and sovereignty." Referring to foreign media comments urging an immediate transfer of power, Gen. Saw Maung said "it is not a trivial matter. We are an independent nation and we are not subservient to any foreign influence." "We have done what we should do and every person with an objective mind appreciates it. Except the insurgents we have no opposition," he said. It appeared to be strong warning against pressure for immediate transfer of power. The opposition scored a huge victory over conservative, pro-military forces in the May 27 vote. Tallies show the parliament will be overwhelmingly dominated by the junta's harshest critics, the National League for Democracy. The military has promised to yield power after newly elected legislators enact a constitution and form a civilian government. But many express concern over whether the military will be able to wean itself from power. Gen. Saw Maung seized power last Sept. 18, replacing the 26-year Socialist system of army strongman Ne Win, who many believe still wields behind-the-scenes power. The tense political scene in Burma is complicated by ethnic malaise and ethnic insurgencies, which could be interpreted as threatening national unity. Within the National League for Democracy, relatively inexperienced young radicals are vying for control with a more moderate senior faction. Another flash point could prove to be Aung San Suu Kyi, the dynamic opposition leader.

"Heavy aerial bombardment, artillery mortars shelling, and strafing from helicopter gunships, have driven the civilian population (in Batticaloa district) into schools, temples and churches," it added. The statement, issued Monday night, said hundreds of houses had been destroyed in the aerial bombardment. Military sources said three columns of troops were advancing on Batticaloa, a fishing town of 43,000 people, mostly Tamils, from Punani in the north, Maha Oya in the West and Kalawanchi in the south. "The town of Batticaloa is in the process of being consolidated and it is expected to be secured early," a military source said. On Monday the rebels attacked a camp at Kiran near Batticaloa with rocket-propelled grenades, mortars and small arms. A military officer also accused the rebels of lobbing "chemical bombs" at the camp.

Kurosawa gets Japanese award

NEW YORK (AP) — Akira Kurosawa, Japan's most influential film maker and the recipient of four Academy Awards, was given the 1990 Japan Society Award. Kurosawa, 80, who has made 28 movies, many of them epic set in long-gone eras of Japanese history, was honoured by the Japan Society for increasing appreciation and understanding of Japanese society and culture. The Japan Society Award has been given annually since 1984 to recognise the outstanding contributions of a Japanese or American to U.S.-Japan understanding. Kurosawa was too busy finishing up his latest film, *Rhapsody in August*, to attend the ceremony at the New York Hilton in Manhattan, according to his production company. His son, Hideo, president of Kurosawa Production, was to accept the award for him.

Sweden proposes equal marriage rights for gays

STOCKHOLM (R) — Sweden's Social Welfare Board proposed Monday giving homosexuals living together almost the same rights as married couples in a move to publicly recognise their relationships and curtail the spread of AIDS. The board said cohabiting homosexuals should be able to register their partnership formally. "We want to show that homosexual relationships are accepted by society," board official Ulla Karin Wahlgren told Reuters. "We are hoping that this will lead to long and monogamous relationships and limit AIDS," she added. The proposal, which could become law by July 1, 1992, would give homosexuals living together almost all marital rights but not allow them to adopt children, the board said.

Robbers steal \$1.26m in gold, cash

KUALA LUMPUR, Malaysia (AP) — Four robbers, three of them armed with guns, escaped with 53 gold bars and cash worth about 3.4 million ringgits (\$1.26 million) in one of Malaysia's biggest robberies, it was reported Monday. The Star and New Straits Times dailies said the robbery Sunday night at the airport in Kota Bharu, 400 kilometres northeast of Kuala Lumpur, occurred when two goldsmiths arriving from the capital with 70 gold bars were selling their bulion to two other goldsmiths in a car park. Police superintendent Mohammad Yusoff Lazim said a car with four men inside drew up as the transactions was being conducted and three gunmen got out and demanded the bars, the reports said. They took away 53 gold bars from the Kuala Lumpur goldsmiths and 1.643 million ringgits (\$608,000) in cash from the Kota Bharu goldsmiths and escaped. They failed to notice another 17 bars of gold which were in the car the goldsmiths from Kuala Lumpur has rented at the airport, the reports said.

Armed man robs congregation during church service

PHILIPPI, West Virginia (AP) — A man armed with a sawed-off shotgun entered a church and robbed the 132-member congregation as they lay on the floor, praying amid the pews. The authorities said no one was hurt. The man, wearing a stocking mask and sunglasses, made off with at least 500 dollars, but didn't get the Faith Way Baptist Church's collection, according to church officials and the Barbour County Sheriff's Department. The incident just outside the town in northeast West Virginia occurred about midway through the Sunday morning service, the sheriff's department said. The pastor's wife, Mrs. Mary Gregory, said the man came in through the church basement and walked up the steps to the back of the sanctuary. "He had a gun and he said, 'this is a holdup. Everybody get down.' Every body looked at him and they were just stunned," Mrs. Gregory said. "Everybody was down and they were praying and he was going around the pews and taking bill folds and papers and things. The man had a congregation member help him collect the wallets and purses in a bag. Mrs. Gregory said.

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